

Hafa Adai!

Deliberation begins for 5 parole applicants. **PAGE 2**

\$100K cash bail set for man accused of shooting car. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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CNMI sees 1st case of rare, serious COVID-19 syndrome

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. have confirmed **53 new positive cases**

the CNMI's first case of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children, or MIS-C.

MIS-C is a rare but serious condition associated with COVID-19, in which different body parts become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes,

or gastrointestinal organs; and can affect children and adults (MIS-A).

The patient tested positive for COVID-19 in December. **See COVID on Page 4**



House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) presides over a historic session Wednesday, in which 15 of 20 representatives voted to adopt a resolution impeaching Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on charges of felonies, corruption, and neglect of duty.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Villagomez says he voted based on facts presented

» **Manglona says evidence of corruption is overwhelming**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan)

said yesterday that he voted "yes" to impeach Gov. Ralph DLG Torres based on the facts presented during the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee's investigation and hearings into Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels.

This was Villagomez's reply in response. **See VILLAGOMEZ on Page 4**

'Needed threshold to impeach was not reached'

» **Flores says he abstained because he does not have all the evidence to make an informed decision**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) said Wednesday that the resolution to impeach Gov. Ralph DLG

Torres contains many unanswered questions and clearly does not reach the necessary threshold to impeach the governor.

San Nicolas, who was among the **See NEEDED on Page 4**

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:13pm, Jan. 13, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **97.5%**
Fully Vaccinated: **35,767**

Days since last community transmission **2**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,108
Fully Vaccinated:	35,767
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,301
Fully Vaccinated:	5,110
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,117

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	22,056	423	22,479
Recovered	19,230	41	19,271
Active	2,511	423	2,934
Deaths	273	1	274

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	3,698	53	3,751
Traced via Travel Screening	375	12	387
Traced via Community Screening	3,323	41	3,364
Deaths	20	0	20

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., <https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/>

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

41,994 Fully vaccinated



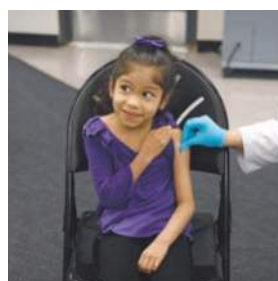
43,526 First dose
Source: [vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/](https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/)

INSIDE



LOCAL
Four Marianas High School students receive full four-year scholarships to top colleges.

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NATION
Authorities are alarmed over the low COVID-19 vaccination rates in U.S. children ages 5 to 11.

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LIFE & STYLE
Jason Momoa and his wife, Lisa Bonet, have ended their 16-year relationship.

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Local

Deliberation begins for 5 parole applicants

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Parole has started deliberating on the applications of five inmates who recently sought early release.

Of the five applicants, three are serving time for first-degree murder, while the other two were imprisoned for sex abuse of a minor in the first degree and theft, respectively.

Parole officer Jason Lizama said that, after hearing the last two parole applicants yesterday, the board took the whole of yesterday to deliber-

ate. They are expected to announce their decision today.

The applicants include Francisco Aguon Pua, Jesse James Camacho, and Eric Rabauliman, who are all serving sentences for first-degree murder.

The other two parolees are Robert Kotep Shineachi and Clifford Jack Palacios.

The most notorious of the bunch is Pua who is serving a 50-year sentence for the murder Mostofa Faruk Parves back in 2002, a Bangladeshi national employed as an attendant at Candi's Poker.

Pua managed walk free for three years following the he-

nous crime with police finally arresting him in 2005.

Police record show that Parves was beaten to death during the early hours of May 22, 2002. His body was discovered early that morning by the establishment's manager. Multiple wounds were found on the victim's body.

At that time, police confirmed that the motive behind the homicide was robbery, though it was not disclosed if money was taken from the Tanapag poker place.

Police said that the Homicide Task Force initially found it difficult to solve the crime due to some witnesses fearing for their safety or informants leaving the island.

David said that investigators knew Pua was among several others at the crime scene at the time of the incident, after reviewing footage taken from the establishment's surveillance camera.

According to OAG Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds, the OAG greatly opposes granting parole to Pua.

"This type of crime should be a very strong aggravating

See **DELIBERATION** on Page 4

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House adopts resolution to provide direct financial relief

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously adopted Wednesday a House joint resolution that seeks to provide direct and expedited financial relief of \$500 per eligible adult in the CNMI and \$500 per eligible dependent.

House Joint Resolution 22-12 that Rep. Christina E. Sa-

blan (D-Saipan) formally introduced Wednesday strongly encourages and endorses the issuance of a new local economic impact payment to provide direct and expedited financial relief to qualified households.

Sablan said the resolution also seeks the expansion of eligibility for premium pay "bonuses" for essential workers in the government and

private sector.

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) placed the resolution on calendar for action.

Sablan stated in the resolution that the new local economic impact payment will be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act and within the guidelines set by the U.S. Treasury.

She said putting money

directly in the pockets of individuals and families who need it, and delivering extra pay to deserving essential workers in other areas of the public and private sectors will boost the buying power of more residents.

The lawmaker said this will also stimulate the local economy through the multiplier effect for every dollar spent locally, to help small businesses,



Sablan

Marianas Territorial Income Taxes, and Excise Taxes.

Sablan said that, as of January of 2022, many individuals and families throughout the Commonwealth are in serious need of financial relief, including thousands of

and increase local collections through revenue streams such as Business Gross Revenue Taxes, Northern

CNMI residents who remain unemployed or underemployed.

She said many are still waiting for long-overdue payments of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Commonwealth-COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance.

\$100K cash bail set for man accused of shooting car

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a \$100,000 cash bail on a man accused of shooting a car along Beach Road, Susupe while his former girlfriend's daughter was driving it.

During a bail hearing Wednesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed a \$100,000 cash bail on Bradley D. Hocog, 30, for shooting at the car late last Monday.

Hocog is no longer being charged with attempted murder. Instead, he is facing charges of disturbing the peace, assault with a dangerous weapon, unlawful transportation of a firearm, and unlawful discharge of a firearm.

Bogdan ordered Hocog to return to court on Jan. 19 at 10am for a preliminary hearing and again on Jan. 24 for his arraignment.

According to official court

documents, both the victims, Leon Camacho and Jayda Pangelinan, and Hocog and his girlfriend went to the police station voluntarily to report the incident.

At the police station, Hocog told police that he had a gun and it was in his bag. When police uncovered the gun, there was no magazine or bullets in the gun chamber.

When police searched the vehicle, they observed a bullet casing on the passenger side floor of the car and a magazine filled with bullets on the driver's side door and in the car's glove compartment.

In a statement from Camacho and Pangelinan, Hocog allegedly shot their vehicle twice while Camacho tried to overtake the vehicle Hocog was riding in. Pangelinan's mother is a former girlfriend of Hocog.

However, in an interview with Hocog's current girlfriend, Labian Muna, she said

they were driving along Beach Road when she noticed Camacho and Pangelinan in a white

SUV "pacing" their car.

When the SUV was in the

See \$100K on Page 4

Deleon Guerrero elected CHCC board chair

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees elected new officers for the next two years, ending 2024. Board members Edward Deleon Guerrero was elected as the chairperson and Polly Masga as the vice chairperson.

Deleon Guerrero was first appointed to the board in 2019 and brings to the board experience in business and governmental consulting services. Masga was first appointed to the board in 2018 and brings to the board experience in health care clinic management and human resources.

"While this pandemic has

been hard on many of our residents and our employees, the CHCC will continue to deliver quality, comprehensive health care to our community," said Deleon Guerrero. "I hope to continue to build upon [former CHCC board chair] Lauri Ogumoro's work. The board and I look forward to serving the needs of our residents and employees."

The board's purpose is to govern the corporation and is responsible for preparing the CHCC's strategic and business plans, annual budget and report, employment guidelines, and other policies. (PR)

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Probable cause found to try couple in homicide case

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Superior Court has found probable cause to try a couple who is accused of murdering a man at the Paseo de Marianas on New Year's Day.

Following a preliminary hearing for Kong Ling Yang and Yi Lyuqin yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo found probable cause to try the couple

for their alleged involvement in the stabbing murder of Li SongZhi on New Year's Day.

After the court heard the testimony from the government's witness and based upon the matters adduced at the hearing, the court found probable cause to believe that the crime of second-degree murder was committed.

The court also found probable cause to believe that Kong committed the crime of assault

with a dangerous weapon and assault and battery, while probable cause was found to believe that Yi was an accessory to the crime.

Govendo ordered the couple to return to court for their respective arraignments on Jan. 24, at 9am before Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja.

According to court documents, Kong stabbed Li multiple times following an altercation between the two that

stemmed from an altercation between their girlfriends.

Li suffered multiple injuries to his upper body with lacerations on his head, neck, and upper torso and puncture wounds to his chest and left ribcage.

In a statement from Kong at the scene, he stated that he was drinking with Li, when Li's girlfriend started "talking bad" to Kong's girlfriend, which led to the physical altercation be-

tween the two men.

Kong told police at the scene that, during the fight, Li's girlfriend got hit as she attempted to intervene, prompting Kong to pick up an object from the ground and begin stabbing Li. When asked about the type of object he used to stab Li, Kong said he could not recall.

However, in a follow up interview with Kong at around 6:40pm on Jan. 1, he said he got angry when Li was assaulting him, causing him to reach for the pocket knife in his right back pocket. He claims he decided to stop after two stabs after seeing Li's shirt soaked in blood.

After the stabbing, Kong said Yi told him to run, but he said he wouldn't. As they were approached by police at Smile Massage, Kong said he realized that the knife was gone from his pocket and assumed that Yi took it and left.

Meanwhile, during the on-scene investigation, another police officer noticed a female Asian, later identified as Yi, return to the crime scene but in a different outfit. Officers noted that there were blood stains on the side of the woman's chin.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

4 make it to SNHU President's List, 1 to Dean's List

MANCHESTER, NH—Four Saipan students made it to the Fall 2021 President's List of the Southern New Hampshire University, while one student from Tinian has been named to the university's Fall 2021 Dean's List.

The four who made it to the President's List are Noah Pohl, Loretolynn Itibus, Kina Sablan, and MaryJane Sike-

bert, while the one from Tinian who made it to the Dean's List is Marvieluz Syed.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above are named to the President's List, while full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 are named to

the Dean's List.

Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in the fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits in either EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6.

SNHU is a private, non-profit institution with an 89-year history of educat-

ing traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 160,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Learn more at www.snhu.edu. (**PR/Saipan Tribune**)

NEEDED

From Page 1

four representatives who voted "no" to impeach Torres during Wednesday's session, was the only lawmaker who raised some questions about the impeachment resolution filed by House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan).

With 15 "yes" votes, four "no" votes, and one abstention, the House passed House Resolution 22-14 Wednesday, impeaching Torres for alleged commission of felonies, corruption, and neglect of duty.

Speaking during the miscellaneous portion of the session when members cannot debate, San Nicolas stated that it is pretty obvious that the numbers favor the majority for Torres' impeachment.

The Tinian lawmaker said if the matter reaches the Senate,

he trusts that the Senate will be fair and impartial in reviewing the evidence and not convict the governor.

"Let's not misuse our constitutional authority to further our majority's political agenda. Let the people decide and the voting people whether our governor should remain in office or not," San Nicolas said.

He said lawmakers need to be careful in their political games and tactics so they do not degrade, erode, or belittle the Office of the Governor, or blur the lines between separate branches of government simply because they have the political majority to do so.

San Nicolas said House Resolution 22-14 demands that the governor be impeached due to the alleged commission of felonies, corruption, and neglect of duty. As these are very serious claims, he said it is incumbent upon all House members to ensure that these claims meet the highest evidentiary and legal thresholds.

To start with, San Nicolas said, he believes the most pressing question that has been left unanswered is why hasn't the Public Auditor or the Attorney General address any of the JGO's claims or any violations?

In his opinion, he said, maybe the simple answer is that no crime has been committed and that the JGO is simply trying to convince the House and the people of the CNMI that their disapproval of how Torres exercises his authority and discretion equates to felony.

San Nicolas pointed out that the resolution states that Torres used public funds to attend political campaigns but, according to the lawmaker, this is contrary to actual travel document presented.

He noted that the JGO never produced a single document that states that Torres traveled from Oregon or Guam, or elsewhere to attend a political function.

Moreover, he said, the JGO never produced a regulation

or law that states that if the governor or any political official go off island on an official business, then he or she cannot attend a political function after business hours.

"In fact, I would even mention that this is a common practice that many past and present members of the House and the Senate have engaged in routinely because it is not illegal," San Nicolas said.

He said the resolution claims theft of utility service, but, according to him, it is unclear if the theft is due to the amount of utility benefits received or legal authorization to even receive any utility benefits.

"The resolution claims the law does not explicitly authorize the payment of utility service but fails to acknowledge that the law does not prohibit either," the Tinian lawmaker said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

COVID

From Page 1

2021, then reported symptoms in January 2022.

In Guam, the Joint Information Center was notified that the territory's 274th COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam on Jan. 11, 2022. The patient was a 66-year-old female, partially vaccinated with underlying health conditions. She tested positive on Jan. 11, 2022.

"[Lt. Gov.] Josh [Tenorio], [first gentleman] Jeff [Cook] and I pray for comfort of her loved ones in this most difficult time," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero in a JIC

news release yesterday. "By protecting ourselves individually, we are also able to protect our most vulnerable."

Multisystem inflammatory syndrome

Children, adolescents, or young adults who develop certain symptoms after having COVID-19 might have MIS-C.

Children and adults with MIS experience ongoing fever, plus more than one of the following: stomach pain; bloodshot eyes; diarrhea; dizziness or lightheadedness (signs of low blood pressure); skin rash; or vomiting

If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Pain or pressure in the chest that does not go away
- Confusion or unusual behavior
- Severe abdominal pain
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone

New positive cases

Fifty-three additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 3,751 cases since March 2020. The individuals have been isolated and are actively monitored.

Of the 53 cases identified on Jan. 11, 21 were identified via contact tracing, 20 via

community testing, and 12 via travel testing. The vaccination statuses of the 53 cases are pending verification.

As of Jan. 12, 2022, there were 10 individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19: five unvaccinated, five vaccinated; one on a ventilator; and three discharged

Vaccinations/testing

A total of 190 COVID-19 vaccine shots were administered on Jan. 12, 2022, resulting in 97.3% of the CNMI's eligible population being fully vaccinated.

A total of 378 COVID-19 tests were conducted on Jan. 11, 2022: 307 community-based testing; 71 at the COVID-19 Community Center (referrals only) (**PR**)

VILLAGOMEZ

From Page 1

sponse to *Saipan Tribune's* request for brief comment why he voted to adopt House Resolution 22-14 that impeaches the governor.

Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), on the other hand, said Wednesday that the extensive evidence of corruption against Torres is "overwhelming" and that they need "to end it now" because people demand it.

Speaking during the miscellaneous portion of Wednesday's session, Manglona said those opposed to the impeachment would desperately say anything to distract from the truth.

"They are calling this a witch hunt, a political agenda, you name it. They call it anything other than the truth," he said.

With 15 "yes" votes, four "no" votes, and one abstention, the House passed House Resolution 22-14 Wednesday, impeaching Torres for alleged commission of felonies, corruption, and neglect of duty.

Manglona said their actions

that day were solely motivated by what the people demand and deserve, and nothing else. "The decision I made today was for the people of Rota and everyone that calls this Commonwealth home," Manglona said.

He asked his colleagues to remember that day, Jan. 12, 2022, which according to him is the day people were "one step closer to taking back control their government, one step closer to putting an end to the corruption that has festered Commonwealth, and one step closer to ensuring a better future for all."

Rep. Leila Haveia Fleming C. Staffler (D-Saipan) also stated during the miscellaneous portion of the session that, based on the amount of evidence presented by the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, it is clear that the oath to defend the Constitution and the laws of the Commonwealth has been broken over and over again.

Staffler said that people are watching to see who among them are loyal to the people, who among them is trustworthy with their future, and who among them have the integrity to do what is right.

\$100K

From Page 3

lane next to them, she said she saw Pangelinan taking a video of their vehicle, which upset Hocog and prompted him to flip them off.

After doing so, Muna said she heard a crash that she described as a window shattering before feeling something wet but she didn't see what it was as she was focused on the road.

Later, she saw Muna pull out his gun and fire at the SUV in a downward direction.

Meanwhile, in an interview

with police, Hocog said he was just trying to protect his family. He claims after flipping off Camacho and Pangelinan, he heard a crash and when he turned around, he saw their daughter was wet and crying.

This prompted him to get his gun from his bag. However, he claims he didn't intend to hurt them, he just wanted to scare them. After shooting at the car, he told Muna to drive to the police station so they could report what had happen.

When they arrived at the station, he saw Camacho and Pangelinan pull up behind them.

DELIBERATION

From Page 2

factor during the parole decision. We respectfully request that his application be denied. We believe the inmate is not

suitable for parole. The inmate has only served 16 years of his sentence as of Jan. 12, 2022, and has over 33 years of his remaining sentence on this heinous crime, the most serious offense we face as a society," Hinds said.



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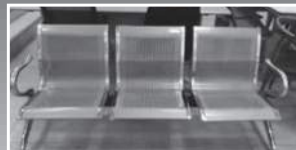
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4 MHS students get full-rides through QuestBridge

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four Marianas High School students have received full four-year scholarships to top colleges through the Quest-

Bridge National College Match program. Thus far, this is the highest number of MHS students to be selected for the prestigious scholarship in a single year.

The MHS students are Arisa



Clockwise from top left, Arisa Custodio, Christina Kim, Jigger Parayaoan, and Vivien Liu.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Questbridge, Notre Dame, and everyone in my life who has contributed to my growth and helped me get to where I am now! I'm so sad to be leaving my home so soon, but super excited to be starting my fall semester at ND," said Custodio.

University of Notre Dame, a private university in Indiana, has a 17% acceptance rate for the Class of 2026.

Kim, on the other hand, will be heading to Northwestern University, a private university in Evanston, Illinois with a 6.8% acceptance rate for the Class of 2025.

Kim said that she has participated in several summer programs through QuestBridge before, which she said provided her with valuable networking and support opportunities. She was more than glad to apply for QuestBridge's scholarship program. When she learned she matched to Northwestern, Kim said she remembered being in "pure shock" and constantly refreshing the Web page to make sure it was really true.

"The day that I found out I matched to Northwestern University I was in pure shock. ...I want to thank Northwestern University, QuestBridge, my teachers and peers who have encouraged me through this process, and my mom who worked endlessly to give me this opportunity," she said.

Liu will be heading to Amherst College, a private liberal arts college in Amherst, Massachusetts which had an 8% acceptance rate for the Class of 2025, last year's application cycle.

She recalled "countless nights" independently weighing her college options and stressing over how to afford a college education, and is excited and grateful to attend Amherst College on a full-ride. Liu thanked her parents for working hard to get her to where she is today, and a few teachers in her life for refining her thinking and challenging her preconceptions.

"I have been challenged academically and personally throughout my years in high school, and I am more than ready to embrace the academic rigor and personal growth to come in the next four years," she said.

Parayaoan will be heading to Bowdoin College, a private liberal arts college in Brunswick, Maine with an 8.8% acceptance rate for the Class of 2025, last year's application cycle.

A longer version of this story is available at
www.saipantribune.com

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE)
MATTER OF) Civil Action
THE ESTATE OF) No. 21-0119-CV
LYDIA)
BENAVENTE) NOTICE OF
FUJIHIRA) HEARING
Decedent.)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the motion of ANTONIO SABLAN BENAVENTE to dismiss probate case and discharge Administrator will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the ____ day of, 2022, at a.m./p.m., at the NMI Superior Court, Room 220 A, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this day of, 2021.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE)
MATTER OF) Civil Action
THE ESTATE OF) No. 21-0123-CV
JUAN SABLAN)
BENAVENTE) NOTICE OF
Decedent.) HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the motion of ANTONIO SABLAN BENAVENTE to dismiss probate case and discharge Administrator will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the ____ day of, 2022, at a.m./p.m., at the NMI Superior Court, Room 220 A, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this day of, 2021.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of January 14, 2022

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Akhil Chandra Mollick dba Ichiban Marine Sports	08/16/2021 SLR-2021-049	Water Jet Craft & Parasailing	All Designated Sites Saipan & Mañagaha	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 01/05/2022
2. Asia Pacific, Inc. dba Asia Marine Sports	08/16/2021 SLR-2021-050	Water Jet Craft & Parasailing	All Designated Sites Saipan & Mañagaha	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 01/05/2022
3. Thank You Saipan Corp dba Thank You Saipan Diving	08/20/2021 SLR-2021-051	Parasailing & Banana Boat Operations	All Designated Sites Saipan & Mañagaha	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 01/05/2022
4. Open Knowledge Systems, Inc. dba Let's Go Diving-Saipan	08/20/2021 SLR-2021-052	SCUBA Diving Tour Instruction/Operation	All Designated Sites Saipan & Mañagaha	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 01/05/2022
5. B&J Corporation dba Dive Y2K	09/20/2021 SLR-2021-053	SCUBA Diving Tour Instruction/Operation	All Designated Sites Saipan & Mañagaha	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 01/05/2022
6. Noriko Akari Baidya dba Sakura Saipan	11/18/2021 SLR-2022-007	SCUBA Diving Tour/Instruction	All Designated Sites Saipan & Mañagaha	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 01/05/2022
7. Commonwealth Ports Authority	11/30/2021 SSPI-2022-008	South Seaplane Ramp Paving & Drainage Project	Lowerbase, Saipan	Shoreline, Ports & Industrial	Approved* 01/07/2022
8. Saipan Crewboats, Inc.	12/22/2021 SPlm-2022-011	Dry-dock of C/B Leatherneck	Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 01/04/2022
9. Department of Public Works	01/07/2022 SWm-2022-013	Hazard Elimination on Route 31 & 34 Isa Drive & Kagman Road Intersection	Kagman, Saipan	Wetlands & Mangrove	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

CHEF WATER BOTTLE 30oz  \$2.99 ea.	CHEF TRAVEL MUG 16 OZ  \$2.99 ea.	QUICK PEELER  99¢	BLACK AND DECKER 3IN1 WAFFLE MAKER  \$89.99 ea.	IRONING BOARD READY PRESS  \$29.99	FRY PAN NON-STICK 9.5"  \$9.99 ea.	STERILITE DIVIDED CADDY WHITE  \$6.99 ea.
BAZIC MARBLE COMPOSITION BOOK 100'S  \$1.29	GEL PEN JURASSIC W/BOOKMARK  49¢	MEMO PADS 3X5 WHITE 50CT  79¢	BICYCLES & TRICYCLES  25% OFF	LUGGAGES  25% OFF	ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS  25% OFF	ELECTRICAL KITCHEN APPLIANCES  25% OFF
PLASTIC HOUSEWARES  25% OFF	COMFORTERS & AREA RUGS  25% OFF	SCHOOL & OFFICE SUPPLIES  25% OFF	COMFORTERS & BED SHEETS  25% OFF	ELECTRIC FANS  25% OFF	HANDBAGS & WALLETS  25% OFF	SHOES AND SANDALS  25% OFF

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WEEKEND SALE

SATURDAY - MONDAY, JANUARY 15-17, 2022

CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS 33#  \$19.99	NORBEST TURKEY  \$1.59 /lb.	CHUCKWAGON HOTDOGS 16oz  \$1.29	US PORK SPARERIBS 20#  \$25.99	ACE OF DIAMONDS TUNA 7oz  \$1.59
SUMIRE CALROSE RICE 44#  \$25.99	SAPPORO ICHIBAN ORIGINAL RAMEN 24/3.5oz  \$11.98 /cs.	HAWAIIAN SUN DRINKS 12pk  \$7.98	CORONA HARD SELTER 12pk  \$13.99	JOETEN BUTANE GAS 4pk  \$3.49 /4pk OR \$21 /cs.

GROCERY/MARKET ITEMS

<p>POST COCOA PEBBLES 11oz POST FRUITY PEBBLES 11oz</p> <p> </p> <p>\$3⁹⁹ ea.</p>	<p>KRAFT BBQ SAUCE (ORIGINAL 18oz, SWEET HONEY 18oz, HICKORY SMOKED 17.5oz, MESQUITE SMOKED BBQ 18oz, SPICY HONEY BBQ SAUCE 18oz)</p> <p>  </p> <p>\$1⁹⁹ ea.</p>			<p>SWANSON BROTH CHICKEN NAT 32oz</p> <p></p> <p>\$2⁹⁹</p>	<p>XL DOZEN EGGS</p> <p></p> <p>\$1⁹⁹</p>	<p>KOREAN TANGERINES 3LB BAG</p> <p></p> <p>\$4⁹⁹</p>	<p>KRAFT COOL WHIP TOPPINGS ORIGINAL 8oz</p> <p></p> <p>\$2⁵⁹</p>	<p>KRAFT COOL WHIP TOPPINGS 12oz</p> <p></p> <p>\$3³⁹</p>
<p>KRAFT COOL WHIP DAIRY 16Z</p> <p></p> <p>\$4¹⁹</p>	<p>SARA LEE POUND CAKE 10.75oz</p> <p></p> <p>\$4⁴⁹</p>	<p>SARA LEE CAKE POUND FS 16oz</p> <p></p> <p>\$5⁸⁹</p>	<p>NZ FROZEN SALMON FILLET S-ON B/O /LB</p> <p></p> <p>\$13⁷⁵ /lb.</p>	<p>MILKFISH SMOKED 350 - 400g</p> <p></p> <p>\$4⁵⁹</p>	<p>POMFRET / POMPANO 400-800GR IQF</p> <p></p> <p>\$3⁴⁹ /lb.</p>	<p>BLUE MUSSEL MEAT 2lb</p> <p></p> <p>\$7⁴⁹</p>	<p>GROUND PORK 73% 1LB</p> <p></p> <p>\$3²⁹</p>	

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-009

PAU PAU BEACH 2-INCH WATERLINE EXTENSION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Pau Pau Beach 2-Inch Waterline Extension, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; installation of gate valve assembly, existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **January 13, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-22-009, Pau Pau Beach 2-Inch Waterline Extension Project”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 2, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 17, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel H. Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Mrs. Marcela Tenorio Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Assistant – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BECQ suspends monthly beach cleanups

Citing the increasing number of positive cases in the CNMI arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality is temporarily suspending this year

its monthly beach cleanups.

In an announcement yesterday, it said the monthly beach cleanup for 2022 will be temporarily suspended until further notice.

The beach cleanup is a monthly volunteer activity of the BECQ that is held on the first Saturday of every month.

“An announcement will be

made when beach cleanups will resume,” the BECQ statement said. *(PR)*

Free online sessions to provide COVID information specific to older adults

Manâmkô and their families will have an opportunity to learn about the latest information regarding COVID-19 as it relates to older adults in two Zoom sessions hosted by the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program under the University of Guam School of Health.

The presentation, titled “COVID-19 and Life,” will provide the latest updates on the different types of COVID-19 variants as well as information on the different vaccines, boosters, and how to keep oneself and one's family safe during the pandemic.

The sessions will be led by Dr. Delores J. Lee, a family medicine physician at Evergreen Health Center.

The sessions are free to members of the public in Guam and throughout Micronesia.

To register, visit the following links:

■ 9am on Saturday, Jan. 15: <https://bit.ly/COVID-19andLife>

■ 6pm on Thursday, Jan. 27: <https://bit.ly/COVID19andLife2>

For more information, call (671) 735-0109/0128 or email ugogwep@triton.uog.edu. *(UOG)*

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive DirectorINVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-009

PAU PAU BEACH 2-INCH WATERLINE EXTENSION PROJECT

ADDENDUM NO. 1
DATED: JANUARY 10, 2022

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is hereby notifying all prospective proposers of the following amendments to CUC-IFB-22-009:

The **Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit** has been rescheduled from 10:00am on January 13, 2022 to **10:00am on January 19, 2022**.

The **deadline for submission of questions or requests for clarification** has been extended from 10:00am on January 17, 2022 to **10:00am on January 21, 2022**.

Bid Submittal Deadline:

The deadline for submission of bids has been extended from 10:00am on February 2, 2022 to **10:00am on February 9, 2022**.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-22-009, Pau Pau Beach 2-Inch Waterline Extension Project”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 9, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All other terms and conditions in the Scope of Work, shall remain unchanged and in full force.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-22-005

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR LOWER BASE SEWER REPLACEMENT – PHASE II

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting a fee proposal from a professional archaeologist who meets the U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan to prepare information, data and documentation needed to conduct archaeological monitoring during construction of all areas identified by the CNMI HPO for the construction of a new sewer line on Rte. 314 – Lower Base Drive and Rte. 30 – Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval of the USEPA.

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

1. Conduct background research to document the environmental and land-use histories of the project site.
2. Prepare a monitoring plan to the specifications of the Scope of Work and the guidelines for research designs.
3. Implement the monitoring plan activities following the approved plan.
4. Prepare an End of Fieldwork Letter that provides a general description of the project, work completed, burials recovered, sites and features identified.
5. Prepare a draft report summarizing the monitoring and data recovery activities & within six months of completing the fieldwork.
6. Prepare and submit, based on review comments, two final hard copies and one CD-ROM copy of the archaeological report to the HPO.
7. Prepare and submit revised CNMI Site Forms for previously recorded sites, as needed, and new site forms for all newly documented sites.
8. Submit all artifacts collected and pay all fees according to the Commonwealth Museum of History and Culture (CMHC) to the specifications of the current draft curation standards.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the PROPOSAL must be submitted in a SEALED ENVELOPE marked **“CUC-RFP-22-005: Archaeological Services for Lower Base Sewer Replacement – Phase II”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **January 27, 2022, at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 12, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copies to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer, via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
CUC-RAESP-22-002

A&E SURVEY SERVICES FOR THE DANDAN HOMESTEAD WATERLINE AND SERVICE LATERAL REPLACEMENT (W20-074)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Survey Services of the DanDan Homestead Waterline and Service Lateral Replacement in DanDan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this contract is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this RAESP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government-observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RAESP package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-RAESP-22-002, A&E Survey Services for DanDan Homestead Waterline and Service Lateral Replacement”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 8, 2022**. **Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 24, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Mr. Kennet Jann R. Bernardo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email kennet.bernardo@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Technician Senior – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

The Sound of Music: A show of groundbreaking firsts

When Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club presents *The Sound of Music* on Jan. 26 and 28, the show will be groundbreaking on many fronts—for the lead actors, for the community, and the club itself.

A first for the lead actors

The show's lead roles of Maria Rainer and Captain Georg Von Trapp are both being played by two newcomers to the club, sophomore Bernice Shane Sabino and junior Manuel Pangelinan, respectively.

Sabino is not only new to the club, but she is also new to the school. However, that did not deter her from auditioning. "This is my favorite show of all time, so when I saw the announcement, I auditioned right away," she said.

Since landing the role, Sabino said, "I was actually surprised at first because it was really difficult, especially with all those lines and working with a performing group that pays so much attention to details." Undeterred, she added, "At the same time, it's a new experience for me working with everyone, one I've really enjoyed, and I can't wait to help the audience feel the same joy I feel about this show."

For Pangelinan, he only auditioned to help backstage as a crew member. But when he



Mount Carmel School sophomore Bernice Shane Sabino and junior Manuel Pangelinan rehearse a scene from *The Sound of Music* as the two lead characters, Maria Rainer and Captain Georg Von Trapp, respectively.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

learned he was cast for one of the leading roles, he said, "I was shocked because I didn't think I would get the role." Despite the surprise, Pangelinan said, "At first, I was worried about how I would do, but after three months of rehears-

ing, I've learned a lot."

In particular, Pangelinan has enjoyed working with everyone. "The best part of this whole process is meeting a lot of new people, making new friends, and growing as a person," he said. "And this show

is really important, and I hope that the audience will be taken away from the real world and put into this new world full of love, happiness, and music."

A first for the community

This will also be the first time that *The Sound of Music* will be staged on-island. For 25 years, the MCS Theatre Club has brought several groundbreaking productions to the community, including plays by William Shakespeare, Disney musicals, and award-winning films, including the *We Drank Our Tears* film series, which was recently featured in the Guam International Film Festival.

The show's director and president of Northern Marianas College, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, is excited to bring the show to life. "Despite the Theatre Club's long track record, it has always been my dream to bring this beloved show to our community," said Deleon Guerrero. The 1965 movie based on the Broadway original and starring Julie Andrews as Maria and Christopher Plummer as Captain Von Trapp has many devoted fans, young and old, who regard it as their favorite show of all time. "I know that expectations will be high, but our students are amazing and, with everything happening in the

world, our community needs this, now more than ever," said Deleon Guerrero.

Given how ambitious the production was, it took almost a year of work to secure the license to perform the show. The restrictions and school closures related to the COVID-19 pandemic also caused severe setbacks in rehearsals and other aspects of the show. Despite it all, the cast and crew have pushed through. As Deleon Guerrero put it, "It's been unimaginably difficult, but it will be so worth it to bring the joy and the magic of this timeless classic to our community."

A first for the club

As the school's Theatre Club celebrates its 25th anniversary, *The Sound of Music* also marks the club's first time that it is fully collaborating with the school's award-winning concert band led by maestro Julian Greening. Anticipating that the band would play the music for the show, Greening had band members start working on the show's songs over a year ago in various concerts. As Greening said, "This is a big show and we look forward to giving it the music it needs to be a success."

Deleon Guerrero recalls that when he first hired Greening back in 2017 as the president at the school, the idea was not only for Greening to launch

the school's music program. "It was always our hope to collaborate with the band to bring this musical to life," Deleon Guerrero said.

The club has collaborated with many other bands in the past, including the University of Guam Jazz Band with Dr. Randy Johnson, the Guam Territorial Band with Max Ronquillo, and the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band with Will DeWitt. *The Sound of Music* will be the first time that the school's Concert Band will perform with the Theatre Club.

Launched in 1996, the MCS Theatre Club began celebrating its 25th anniversary last year, commemorating over 50 theatrical and cinematic productions. The club started the celebration in February with the sold-out premiere of the latest entry in its award-winning *We Drank Our Tears* series, the *Stories of Visitation, Henry, and Dave* at American Memorial Park. The club continued the celebration in April with William Shakespeare's *As You Like It* and in May with the feature film *Zero2Hero*, a follow-up to 2011's cult hit, *Zero to Hero*. The film was also recently released for free on the school's YouTube channel.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

AUTOMOTIVE & CULINARY ARTS

OPEN ENROLLMENT

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

What we lost, what we carry: Taking stock of the damage of the Bronx fire

It has long been the case that the goings-on in tiny tea shops in Queens, barbershops in Manhattan, temples of worship in Brooklyn, and yes, apartment buildings in the Bronx have reverberated to every corner of the globe. This is not just because New York City is a cultural and economic capital, but because it contains in every corner slices of that vast and wonderful world that lies beyond it.

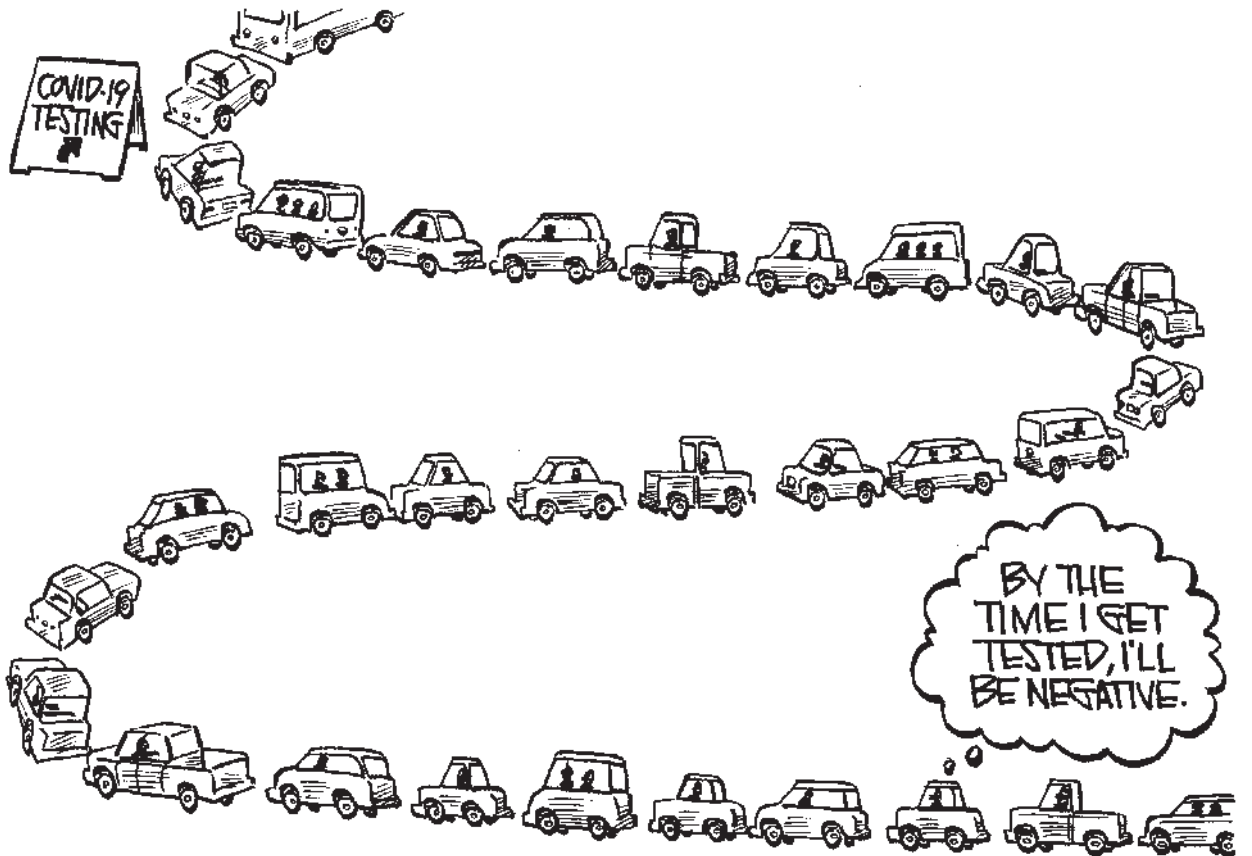
Often, these have been reverberations of joy and love, as a wedding in Jackson Heights is celebrated by relatives cutting a cake in Colombia, or the birth of a new child in Brighton Beach is greeted with whoops of ecstasy back in Russia. Sometimes, it is pain that we must all share. Today, the horror that is deeply felt throughout New York in the face of Sunday's deadly high-rise fire in the Bronx extends a long tendril into the west African nation of Gambia, from where most of the 17 dead hailed.

This tight-knit, largely Muslim community was striving for what generations of New Yorkers have sought: security, opportunity, community, prosperity, and the ability to reestablish in this vast and often anonymous metropolis a place that was at once familiar, linked to a millenary culture, and vibrant with new possibilities. A place where the sound of the djembe could intermix with the sounds of New York City, and children could grow to attend a world-class university system alongside those of every other culture, belief and ambition on Earth.

This city has been called a melting pot and mosaic; it is really a glorious, ever-expanding, intricately interwoven tapestry.

The smoke has cut this journey short for these victims; there must be meticulous investigation into what went wrong. It has not cut the journey short for this community, with whom we will grieve and demand answers, and with whom we will stand as it moves forward, battered but resolute. Their wounds are our wounds just as their drive is our drive. They are our sisters and brothers.

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MIKE MITH

LAS VEGAS JULY 2022

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'We have to show that we value their sacrifices'

Editor's Note: As written for the Wall Street Journal op-ed for publication on Jan. 13, 2022.

While many Americans celebrated the holidays with their families in the final week of 2021, law enforcement kept working. And, tragically, four officers didn't make it home to their loved ones that week. They were murdered while doing their job keeping others safe.

Baltimore police officer Keona Holley, ambushed while alone in her car, died on Christmas Eve. Five days later in Illinois, Wayne County sheriff's deputy Sean Riley was killed during a call for assistance. On Dec. 30, also in Illinois, Bradley Police Department Sgt. Marlene Rittmanic was shot while attempting to locate the owner of dogs left in a car. And on New Year's Eve, Cleveland police officer Shane Bartek was killed in an attempted carjacking.

These four murders brought the total number of officers feloniously killed in the line of duty in 2021 to 73, the highest annual number since the 9/11 attacks. That's the equivalent of one officer murdered every five days. In a year when homicides and violent crime reached distressing levels, this 20-year high hasn't received the attention it deserves.

Especially troubling is that a record number of officers killed—nearly half—had no engagement with their assailant before the attack. Each story is heartbreaking: A 30-year Florida deputy murdered one shift shy of retirement; an officer ambushed on his first day on the job, leaving behind a wife and 6-month-old son; a combat veteran and his police dog killed while serving together.

At the Federal Bureau of Investigation, we experienced loss in 2021, too. Special agents Laura Schwartzenberger and Daniel Alfin were murdered while doing the difficult job investigating crimes against children. FBI Task Force officer Greg Ferency of the Terre Haute, Ind., Police Department was ambushed and killed outside an FBI office.

When I started as FBI director, I made it my practice to call the chief or sheriff of every officer intentionally killed in the line

By CHRISTOPHER A. WRAY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Christopher A. Wray is the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.



of duty. I have now made more than 200 such calls. Each conversation reminds me that behind the uniform, the badge, and, yes, sometimes the flashing lights in your rearview mirror, there are real people. With each call, I think about the families and friends who lost someone they loved, the children who will grow up without a parent, and the communities deprived of a public servant.

We owe it to them to redouble our efforts to take the most violent offenders off the streets and to make sure officers have the resources, equipment and training they need to do their jobs safely. Even more, we need to ensure the brave men and women know that the communities they serve have their backs.

Every day, officers willingly put themselves at risk not knowing what dangerous situation or traumatic event they might encounter. I won't pretend every person who carries a badge is beyond reproach, but the overwhelming majority do the job with the professionalism and commitment to equal justice citizens rightly expect.

I meet frequently with chiefs and sheriffs across the country, and they are concerned about morale and the challenges of recruiting the next generation of officers. They understand that trust and transparency are vital to safety, and they are committed to finding ways to improve interactions. And while respect must be earned, if we are going to recruit and retain the kind of people willing to put their lives on the line to protect others, we have to show that we value their sacrifices.

Civic and business leaders, government officials, and respon-

See SACRIFICES on Next Page

Torres' statement on House impeachment decision

Editor's Note: The author issued the following statement regarding the House of Representatives' decision on his impeachment, as well as the impeachment demonstration held outside of the CNMI Legislative building.

It is unfortunate to witness the hatred and the willful spread of misinformation from the mouths of certain individuals, as evidenced by the calls for impeachment and the demonstration held outside of the Legislature. I have been advocating for all of us to work collaboratively as one united Commonwealth, and yet politically-motivated members of the House of Representatives have chosen time and time again against this. They have chosen to pursue a witch hunt in order to perpetuate this notion that I am a corrupt leader who does not care for the well-being of my home and its people. Those who know me and who have worked with me know that this could not be true.

Not only have the members of the House Committee on JGO made repeated personal attacks against myself, members of my family, and the hardworking members of my administration, but their willingness to spread false and misleading information benefiting their personal interests is unbecoming of any elected official and knows no end.

To those who showed up to support the House's vote for impeachment, I respect your right to peacefully protest. However, I continue to respectfully urge you to try to look past your per-

sonal biases and see the situation for what it is: they want to impeach a governor simply because they do not like him. I have done nothing wrong, and the facts support this. This is purely a political move for them.

To say that I am a governor who has committed felonies, as stated in the House resolution for impeachment, is not factual by any means. Instead, it is an attack on my character, my family, and tireless members of this administration who have sacrificed for and served their community during arguably the most difficult times in our Commonwealth's history. And yet we continue to work hard in service of our people.

I have said this multiple times and I will continue to say it: I have not done anything illegal. Those who choose to accuse me of wrongdoings choose to remain blind to the fact that progress and good work continue in the Marianas for my supporters and non-supporters alike.

I want to thank all those who did come out to show their support. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives voted the way that they did. However, I remain undiscouraged and will not deter from my commitment to the CNMI.

For those who oppose my administration and capacity as an elected official, I want you to know that I work hard for you too. I care for every person who calls these islands home.

The decision of the full House of Representatives to impeach me as governor conveys one thing: that, although the

By RALPH DLG TORRES

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ralph DLG Torres is the governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



dedication and commitment my administration and I have for the Commonwealth remains evident through various natural disaster recovery efforts and the ongoing pandemic, there will always be individuals who choose hatred and divisiveness over collaboration and goodwill. Even after today's impeachment proceedings, I continue to reach across the branches to reaffirm my position that we are a stronger Marianas when we choose to work together.

I reiterate my previous statements by expressing my trust in the Senate's ability to conduct upcoming proceedings regarding this matter with transparency, in proper decorum, and in accordance with a set of published rules. And further, that they will restore credibility and respect for these truth-seeking processes and ensure fairness and equal protection under the law.

Nonprofit organizations are essential for a thriving community

Nonprofit organizations have been and will continue to play a vital role in building resilient communities by providing services that contribute to economic stability. They also strengthen communities in other important ways by caring for the needs of the local community. When issues arise, nonprofit organizations can act faster to provide relief within the community.

The Rotary Club of Saipan has helped our community rebuild in any way we could. After the destructive effects of Super Typhoon Yutu, we were able to help the Maturana House of Prayer in repairing their facilities. We needed to help, because the house serves as a retirement home for nuns, and at the same time, hosts community events and programs.

Recently, with the help of Karidat Social Services and our donors, we were able to quickly assist 45 families on Rota. My fellow Rotarians and I distributed care packages of food and sanitary products to families. Now, we are committed to assisting with the beautification of our islands—Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

Through the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership program, our Rotary Club adopted the Suicide Cliff site with the Emon Masonic Lodge. Suicide Cliff is one of the most visited tourist attractions, and we would like our visitors to enjoy the site even more. Our priority is to build ramps

that would make the site accessible for people with disabilities. We hope that other popular sites become more friendly to people of all abilities.

The Rotary Club and Emon Masonic Lodge's upcoming projects at Suicide Cliff include planting more flowers, repairing the railings, and enhancing the natural environment. Beautification must be a Commonwealth-wide effort. Our islands are so beautiful, and we all need to chip in to preserve its natural resources. Clean beaches are vital for a tourism-based economy and for the islands' residents who deserve a clean environment and safe source of food. Cleaning up after ourselves and planting more flowers and trees are a few ways we can keep our sites beautiful. Join us.

GCEA's PPP program is a terrific opportunity for local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and community leaders to contribute to making our islands more beautiful. We can see how invested our Public School System students, teachers, and administrators are through their participation in the Marianas Village Pride Campaign. They have a lot of pride in where they're from, and we should support their efforts. GCEA promotes the importance of being good neighbors and improving the quality of life at the village level. They promote a genuine sense of community that we can all appreciate and get behind. It's also a good

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By IVAN ILMOV

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Ivan Ilmov serves as the current president of the Rotary Club of Saipan. Ilmov's passion is to help the youth pursue their dreams, and to not give up on their education.

example for our younger generations to emulate.

As we begin a new year, let's commit to working together to transform our Marianas into a world-class destination. Whether it's picking up trash on the side of the road, painting a curb, or even giving out food to local NPOs, every effort makes our community better. We need to invest in making the CNMI a better place for all. There is only so much our government leaders can do, so I challenge fellow nonprofit organizations to help out where they can and leave a lasting legacy for others to follow. Together, We Can!

For more information, visit the GCEA at cnmieconomy.com, on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

You gotta have heart, maybe from a pig

Eddie Fisher, a terrific singer popular back in the 1950s, came to mind the other day because he crooned, "You gotta have heart, miles and miles and miles of heart," and I had just read about the first successful heart transplant from a pig to a man. Ultimately, possibly, this extraordinary medical advance could save hundreds of thousands of lives, but first the doctors had to get permission from the dying patient.

"Will I oink?" he asked, as reported by The New York Times, and I thought here it is: the amazing and profoundly important sense of humor my fellow Americans have even in the toughest situations.

I myself get by with kidding when checking out of Walmart wearing a mask to hide my identity. There's one clerk who usually hits first, once asking through his own mask if I knew that the most astounding of all rock stars had never made a record. I said no and asked who he was talking about.

Mount Rushmore, he said.

But recently, in this exceptional land of ours, we have not seemed so exceptional. Here we are with a polarized culture, polarized politics, inerasable Trump traces, race riots, a Capitol riot, the Afghanistan catastrophe, inflation delivered with a shrug, COVID-19 confusion on just about any and every front, Bernie Sanders' ideological virus infecting endless Democrats, Russia and China challenging us around the clock, Iran still working on

its nuclear weapons and Joe Biden as president.

Well, he's better than the alternative if he should quit, but let's get back to Eddie Fisher, once married to Debbie Reynolds and then Elizabeth Taylor, and this wonderful song in which he sang: "Get your chin off the floor, mister you can be a hero, you can open any door." ... "First you've gotta have heart." With all of that in mind, derive some oomph, if you will, from America still being a scientific wonder in the 21st century.

We learn this particular operation took place in Baltimore, it took eight hours and came about through the long-sought, technically complicated discovery that pigs are a lot more able to provide usable, right-sized organs for humans than other animals if they are genetically modified. The patient was not allowed to get a heart from a recently deceased human because there are not all that many donors, the demands are great and he was close to death. The pig heart is his now and so far has been doing its duties faithfully, lending hope that there will come a time when hundreds of thousands of lives can be saved by kidneys and hearts from pigs.

So have hope not just in science, which I believe is going to give us sane, workable solutions to climate change, as one example, but in politics if we can restore faith in what got us to our best days, such as the genius of our founders, the Constitution, the rule of law, free markets, free speech and consent of the gov-

By JAY AMBROSE

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



erned but also the separation of powers and other means to avoid the tyranny of the majority, which can sometimes happen.

For help, we can look again to pigs, domesticated from wild boars thousands of years ago and filling our stomachs with delicious pork since then. There's a fairy tale called "The Three Little Pigs," and remember they were brothers living in three different homes, two made of sticks and straw and one made of brick. The Big Bad Wolf came, threatened to blow the houses down and succeeded with the flimsy ones, eating two of the pigs. The brick house did not go down and the third pig ate the wolf in revenge for his lost brothers.

Our American house is made of brick and we can keep it that way, but in the face of all these troubles, we first gotta have heart and shoo the wolf away, not eat it.

SACRIFICES

From Page 10






sible citizens need to consider how we talk about engaging with

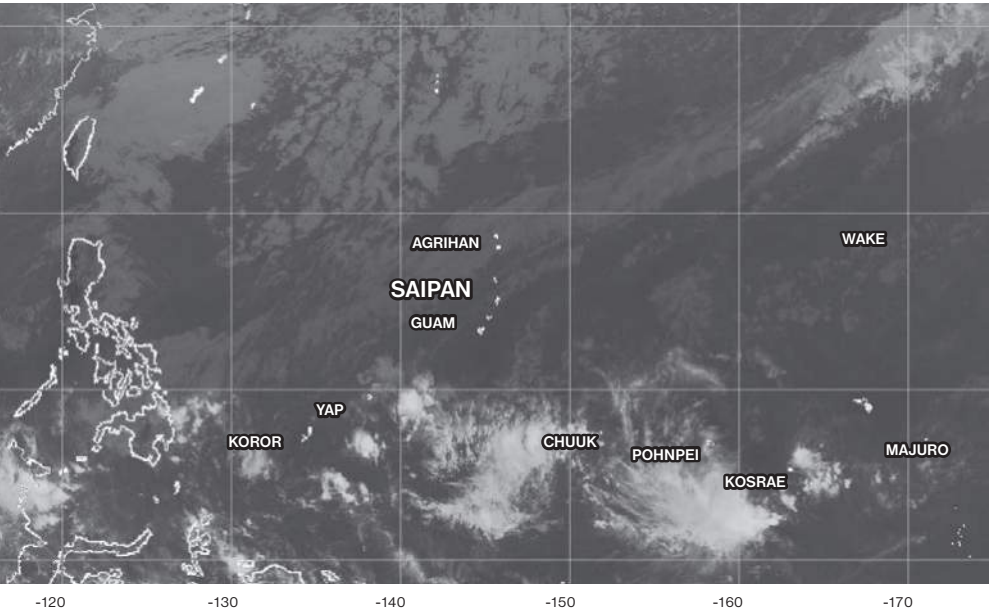
law enforcement. When police are miscast as lacking humanity—devoid of empathy and compassion—everyone suffers. Departments lose good officers who are hard to replace, and communities are less safe.

As we reflect on 2021, let's honor the memories of those who

lost their lives protecting others. Let's commit to making communities safer, finding ways to improve interactions between law enforcement and those they serve, holding everyone to the high standards befitting men and women in uniform, and valuing those who do their jobs with honor.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. east to northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.	
86°	76°	84°	70°	76°	30°	76°	85°	76°	85°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:03 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Light trade-wind flow clings to the Marianas. Satellite shows mostly clear skies over Guam with morning clouds and sprinkles across the CNMI. A cold front is also seen to the northwest near Pagan, CNMI. Seas are ~ 4 feet based on Ipan buoy and nearby altimetry passes.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	83 / 76 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84 / 78 °F	
Yap	AM Thunderstorms	83 / 79 °F	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85 / 80 °F	
Pohnpei	PM Thunderstorms	86 / 78 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 / 79 °F	
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	85 / 80 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:46 AM	18:05 PM
Saturday	06:46 AM	18:05 PM
Sunday	06:46 AM	18:06 PM
Monday	06:46 AM	18:07 PM
Tuesday	06:46 AM	18:07 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	03:29 PM	15:00 PM
Saturday	-	04:21 PM	15:46 PM
Sunday	-	05:12 PM	16:35 PM
Monday	-	17:27 AM	16:35 PM
Tuesday	-	06:53 PM	18:20 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	75 / 64 °F	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	35 / 18 °F	
Hong Kong	Cloudy	65 / 61 °F	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 66°F	
London	AM Fog/PM Sun	43 / 34°F	
Los Angeles	Cloudy	72 / 50 °F	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	85 / 72°F	
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	85 / 65 °F	
Miami	Sunny	73 / 58 °F	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	40 / 14°F	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	43 / 35°F	
Paris	Sunny	45 / 29 °F	
Busan	Sunny	43 / 30 °F	
Rome	Sunny	54 / 35 °F	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	60 / 37 °F	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	57 / 46 °F	
Seoul	Sunny	33 / 17 °F	
Tokyo	Sunny	47 / 33 °F	
Washington, DC	Partly Coudy	46 / 20 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
07:02 AM	High Tide	1.41	
1:40 AM	Low Tide	1.10	
4:29 PM	High Tide	1.52	
4:29 PM	Low Tide	1.52	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6	UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7	UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
				UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
				UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
				UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6	7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4, 5	OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6	TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM		3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
				2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Approved CDBG-DR loan borrowers attend counseling session

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. held a housing counseling session last Tuesday, Jan. 11, for 25 individuals who were approved for the CDBG-DR housing program assistance.

As per the HUD CDBG-DR (Disaster Recovery) program requirements, approved borrower(s) or mortgage loan applicant(s) must undergo and complete housing counseling before moving forward with the housing assistance.

Tuesday's counseling session was the latest batch of NMHC's continued process toward its CDBG-DR housing implementation projects. Since April 2021 to date, NMHC has counseled and certified approximately 230 individuals for the DR housing program.

As the housing agency continues its program implementation on DR housing projects, it has been met with challenges due to the high demand and volume of applications that the program has received. Coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic and safety protocols, it was necessary to make some adjustments as to how the housing counseling sessions are to be conducted.

Housing counseling sessions are scheduled at least a week ahead and are normally performed on a one-on-one basis, but due to the high volume of approved applicants, it was necessary to streamline the process into group sessions in order to keep pace with project movement, as well as to prevent unexpected delays.

Last Tuesday's group housing counseling was a first-time



The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. holds a housing counseling session on Jan. 11 for 25 individuals who were approved for the CDBG-DR housing program assistance.

hybrid session, conducted in combination of in-person and virtual learning. Because of the recent increases in COVID-19 infections and community spread, it was necessary to downsize the in-person class into a small group of about 15 attendees but paired it with the virtual group meeting of 10 participants.

The modifications to a hybrid approach has proven to be successful and the agency looks to continue with this workaround in future counseling sessions to come.

NMHC's housing counseling group sessions are conducted by Chris Pangelinan, mortgage manager; Leilani Manibusan, DR loan supervisor; and Jennifer Camacho, HUD-certified housing counselor and loan specialist.

In July of 2021, NMHC was officially granted and recognized as an HUD-approved Housing Counseling Agency. As described and embedded in its approved work plan, the NMHC Hous-

ing Counseling and Education Program shall be provided to those who are eligible and approved for housing assistance or any housing program that is provided and/or administered by NMHC; and are required per program rules to complete housing counseling and education.

Specifically, for the HOME and CDBG-DR housing programs, applicants approved for mortgage or loan assistance shall be required to complete housing counseling in one-on-one or group education sessions.

In each of these counseling and education sessions, borrowers learn about the mortgage process, home-

ownership/homebuyer pre-purchase standards, personal finance and budgeting, post-purchase standards and foreclosure prevention, to men-

tion a few.

For inquiries and more information on the housing counseling program, call NMHC at 234-6866. (PR)

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB22-OPM-42200042
SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 03, 2022 TIME: 9:00 A.M.
"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR
THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORIGUCHI BLDG., GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANCES TORRES-SALAS
DIRECTOR OF OPM

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
DIRECTOR, P.S.



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Win Pacific Corporation

THE POSITION: Network and Computer Systems Administrator

JOB DESCRIPTION: Determine organization's system needs and install network hardware and software; Make needed upgrades and repairs to networks and ensure that systems are operating correctly; maintain network or system performance; Add users to a network, and assign and update security permissions on the network; Train users in the proper use of hardware and software; Interpret and solve problems when a user or an automated monitoring system alerts them that a problem exists; Ensure that email and data storage networks work properly; and make sure that employees' work stations are working properly and stay connected to the central computer network.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science

EXPERIENCE: Must have at least sixty (60) months of relevant work experience as a Computer Systems Administrator or Information Technology Network Systems/Hardware Administrator

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: With at least sixty (60) months of progressively responsible experience in the selection, installation, support, and usage of network and communications system hardware and software; Flexibility to work outside normal business hours; and Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

JOB SITE: Tower Palace, Gualo Rai Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive professional resume, with supporting credentials, and application letter to:

OSWIN ROY SUYAPTO
President and General Manager
WIN PACIFIC CORPORATION

Office Address: Tower Palace, Gualo Rai Village
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 503324, Saipan, MP 96950

Email Address(es): darwing@win-pacific.com and/or oswins@win-pacific.com
Telephone Number(s): Tel. 1(510) 390-6872 and/or (670) 783-0532

MICHAEL N. EVANGELISTA, ESQ.
(CNMI Bar No. F0364)
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA
EVANGELISTA, LLC
D' Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-8060; Fax: (670) 235-8070
Email: mnevangelista8@gmail.com

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN,

Plaintiff,
-v-

**PATRICIA MUÑA ALDAN
and JUAN DELEON
GUERRERO ALDAN,**

Defendants.

**Civil Action
No. 20-0015**

**NOTICE OF
AUCTION
ON THE
MORTGAGED
PROPERTY**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the judgment dated September 27, 2021, made and entered in the above entitled action by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff from Defendants, the court-approved auctioneer, Mr. Richard S. Villagomez, will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 16th day of February, 2022, at 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC, 2nd Floor, D' Torres Building, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit: **Lot 010 K 401**.

Lot 010 K 401, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01, the original of which was recorded on August 19, 1987, as Document No. 87-2912 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- to reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property, provided it is acceptable as the minimum starting bid to the Bank of Saipan. Bids made in advance must be in writing and addressed to Michael N. Evangelista, Attorney-at-Law, 2nd Floor, D' Torres Building, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, P.O. Box 504340 CK Saipan, MP 96950 or Email: mnevangelista8@gmail.com.

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within five days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within five days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in the property will revert to Bank of Saipan.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Saipan reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC, for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 7th day of January, 2022.

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA
EVANGELISTA, LLC.

/s/ Michael N. Evangelista
Michael N. Evangelista, Esq.
(Bar No. 0364)
Attorney for Plaintiff



The Mobility Space is Getting Greener in the Northern Mariana Islands

The mobility space is getting greener in the Northern Mariana Islands, as Enterprise Saipan announced today that it has acquired hybrid vehicles as part of its fleet of vehicles serving Saipan.

This investment not only supports demand for safe and reliable mobility options during the COVID-19 crisis but also demonstrates Enterprise's commitment to supporting local economies and driving forward environmentally friendly modes of transportation across the islands as they move out of travel restrictions.

Enterprise Saipan also upholds its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness in the car rental industry through the implementation of the Enterprise Complete Clean Pledge.

The Pledge further enhances cleaning protocols across Enterprise Holdings' brands and comprehensive portfolio of transportation options. This includes vehicle washing, vacuuming, general wipe down, and sanitizing with a disinfectant that meets leading health authority requirements, with particular attention to more than 20 high-touch points.



www.enterprise.com | Email: reservations@ehiglobalsaipan.com

Corporate Office (Airport Road) (670) 288-4400 • Hotline: (671) 888-6055 • (670) 285-4405

Business

Inflation at 40-year high pressures consumers, Fed, Biden

WASHINGTON (AP)—Inflation jumped at its fastest pace in nearly 40 years last month, a 7% spike from a year earlier that is increasing household expenses, eating into wage gains and heaping pressure on President Joe Biden and the Federal Reserve to address what has become the biggest threat to the U.S. economy.

Prices rose sharply in 2021

for cars, gas, food and furniture as part of a rapid recovery from the pandemic recession. Vast infusions of government aid and ultra-low interest rates helped spur demand for goods, while vaccinations gave people confidence to dine out and travel.

As Americans ramped up spending, supply chains remained squeezed by shortages of workers and raw materials

and this magnified price pressures.

The Labor Department reported Wednesday that a measure of inflation that excludes volatile food and gas prices jumped 5.5% in December, also the highest in decades. Overall inflation rose 0.5% from November, down from 0.8% the previous month.

Price gains could slow further as snags in supply

chains ease, but most economists say inflation won't fall back to pre-pandemic levels anytime soon.

"U.S. inflation pressures show no sign of easing," said James Knightley, chief international economist at the financial services company ING. "It hasn't been this high since the days of Thatcher and Reagan. We could be close to the peak, but the risk is that inflation

stays higher for longer."

High inflation isn't only a problem for the U.S. In the 19 European countries that use the euro currency, inflation rose 5% in December compared with a year earlier, the biggest increase on record.

Companies large and small are adapting as best they can.

Nicole Pomije, a bakery owner in the Minneapolis area, said she plans to raise prices for cookies because of surging ingredient costs.

Her basic cookies were priced at 99 cents each, while premium versions were sell-

ing for \$1.50 each. But Pomije said she will have to jack up the prices of her basic cookies to the premium price.

"We have to make money," she said. "We don't want to lose our customers. But I think we might."

Businesses struggling to hire have hiked pay, but rising prices for goods and services have eroded those income gains for many Americans. Lower-income families have felt it the most, and polls show that inflation has started displacing even the coronavirus as a public concern.

Fed survey finds the US economy growing modestly despite COVID

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve said Wednesday that the economy was growing at a modest pace at the end of 2021 but was still being held back by ongoing supply-chain disruptions and labor shortages.

In its latest survey of business conditions around the country, the Fed said its 12 regional banks found that the economy was continuing to grow. But many regions reported a sudden pullback in spending on leisure travel, hotels and restaurants because of the rapid spread of the omicron variant of the coronavirus.

"Although optimism remained high generally, several districts cited reports from businesses that expectations for growth over the next several months cooled somewhat during the last

few weeks" of 2021, a period when COVID cases were rising sharply.

Of the Fed's 12 districts, only one, Dallas, reported "robust" growth in the closing weeks of 2021. But even in that district, Fed officials noted that "uncertainty increased amid a new surge in COVID-19 cases and concern that labor and supply-chain shortages will persist well into 2020."

At the opposite extreme, the Fed's New York district reported an economy growing at only a subdued pace, held back by "intensifying supply disruptions, labor shortages and the omicron outbreak."

The other 10 Fed districts generally reported modest to moderate growth with many citing threats posed by the rise in COVID cases.

US posted smallest monthly deficit in 2 years in December

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal government last month posted its smallest monthly budget deficit in two years thanks to a rebounding economy that helped boost tax receipts, coupled with slower spending as some COVID relief programs ended.

The Treasury Department reported Wednesday that the December deficit of \$21.3 billion was the smallest monthly deficit since a \$13 billion shortfall in December 2019. That was before the COVID pandemic hit in the U.S. and pushed millions of people out of work and sent the economy into a short but steep recession.

For the first three months of this budget year, which began on Oct. 1, the government has recorded a deficit of \$377.7 billion. That's 30.1% below the shortfall run up during the same period a year ago

when the government was still spending trillions of dollars to keep the economy from falling into an even deeper funk.

Many of those government support programs have now ended or are being tapped less as more people get back to work.

In the October-December period, government revenues were up 30.1% compared to the same period a year ago. Tax revenues from individuals and corporations were both up by solid amounts, reflecting an economy growing this year at the fastest pace since the mid-1980s.

Government spending during that period rose by a much smaller 3.8% compared to the same period a year ago to \$1.43 trillion. The government outlays and tax receipts, which totaled \$1.05 trillion, were both records for the first three months of a budget year.


COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
 PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950
 PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
 WEBSITE: WWW.CNMPORTS.COM


**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR
 ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES**

**PORT OF SAIPAN
 CPA OFFICE LEAK REPAIRS
 PROJECT NO. CPA-SS-001-22**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the CPA Office Leak Repairs at the Captain George F. Fleming Memorial Building at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-SS-001-22.

These services are being funded by CPA and is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at wprater@cnmports.com or Ms. Sheri N. Llagas at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com.

Questions or inquiries regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater via email at wprater@cnmports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, Friday, January 14, 2022.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: December 28, 2021


COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT OF SAIPAN SOUTH SEAPLANE RAMP PAVING & DRAINAGE
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
 PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950
 PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
 WEBSITE: WWW.CNMPORTS.COM


**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
 FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

PROJECT NO. CPA-SS-001-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Port of Saipan South Seaplane Ramp Paving & Drainage, Project No. CPA-SS-001-19.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at wprater@cnmports.com or Ms. Sheri N. Llagas at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cnmports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, local time, Friday, February 4, 2022.



The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00p.m. CHST, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: January 12, 2022


Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
 P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
 Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
 www.dcrmm.gov.mp


PUBLIC NOTICE

**From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
 COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
 of the DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**


DATE: January 14, 2021

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal national negative determination from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding guidelines for safely deterring marine mammals carried out in accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act. More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the DCRM website at: https://dcrmm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/Marine-Mammal-Deterrents-Rule-CZMA-National-Negative-Determination_12.20.2021_MP.pdf

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a state's federally approved coastal management program (CMP).

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's CMP can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resources Management at fedcon@dcrmm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on January 14, 2022 and ending on January 29, 2022. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT


INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: DPW/SWMD22-ITB No.: 42200035

SUBMISSION DATE: February 14, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Procurement of Services for Removal, Packaging, Containment, and Shipping of E-Waste Materials Collected at the Lower Base Transfer Station"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **January 14, 2022** at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan.

A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Solid Waste Management Division required for each set.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 02, 2022**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division Conference Room, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 20, 2022** to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas, Acting Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station**, Saipan or fax to (670) 322-2762. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Nation

Kids' low COVID-19 vaccination rates called a 'gut punch'

By LINDSEY TANNER
AP MEDICAL WRITER

Distrust, misinformation and delays because of the holidays and bad weather have combined to produce what authorities say are alarmingly low COVID-19 vaccination rates in U.S. children ages 5 to 11.

As of Tuesday, just over 17% were fully vaccinated, more than two months after shots became available to the age group. While Vermont is at 48%, California is just shy of 19% and Mississippi is at only 5%.

Vaccinations among the elementary school set surged after the shots were introduced in the fall, but the numbers have crept up slowly since then, and omicron's explosive spread appears to have had little effect.

The low rates are "very



Elsa Estrada, 6, smiles at her mother as pharmacist Sylvia Uong applies an alcohol swab to her arm before administering the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at a pediatric vaccine clinic for children ages 5 to 11 set up at Willard Intermediate School in Santa Ana, Calif., Nov. 9, 2021.

disturbing," said Dr. Robert Murphy, executive director for

the Institute for Global Health at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. "It's just amazing."

Parents who hesitate "are taking an enormous risk and continuing to fuel the pandemic," Murphy said.

Hospitalizations of children under 18 with COVID-19 in the U.S. have climbed to their highest levels on record in the past few weeks. Many have other conditions made worse by COVID-19, though many aren't sick enough to require

intensive care.

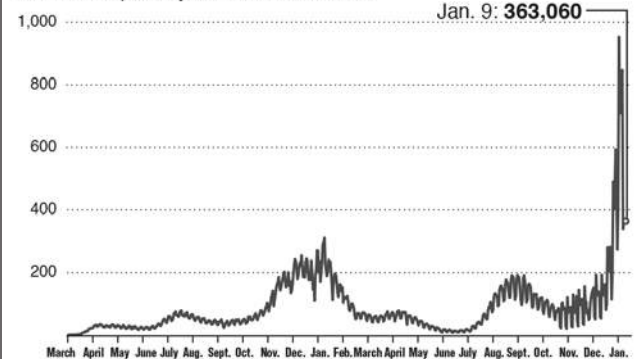
The low vaccination rates and rising hospitalizations are "a gut punch, especially when we've been working so hard to keep these kids well," said Dr. Natasha Burgert, a pediatrician in Overland Park, Kansas.

The vaccines have proved highly safe and effective at reducing the risk of severe illness, hospitalization and death.

Overall, 63% of Americans are fully vaccinated. Among children 12 to 17, the

COVID-19 cases in the US

New cases per day, scale in thousands



Source: CDC
Graphic: TNS

rate is 54%.

COVID-19 shots for young children have been authorized in at least 12 countries. In Canada, where Pfizer shots were cleared for ages 5 to 11 in November, just 2% are fully vaccinated.

Snowstorms, tornadoes and other heavy weather in December are believed to have slowed the pace of vaccination in the U.S., along with the busy holiday season. Also, some parents are distrustful because the vaccine is so new, and many have other concerns.

Chicago mother Kendra Shaw has resisted shots for her two school-age children, saying she worries about possible risks and isn't convinced the benefits are worth it.

But this week, her 10-year-old daughter pleaded to get vaccinated so she wouldn't miss school, and her soon-to-be 7-year-old son asked for his shots so he could have a big birthday party.

Shaw scheduled their first doses for Wednesday but said: "I'm really on the fence."

Daniel Kotzin, of Denver, said he is convinced he made the right decision not to vaccinate his 5-year-old daughter and 7-year-old son because most omicron cases seem to be mild.

"They are essentially at no risk of harm, so I really don't understand the reason to vaccinate them," he said.

Doctors say that kind of thinking is misguided and part of the problem.

'Omicron to become dominant variant in Americas shortly'

MIAMI (AP)—The Pan American Health Organization said Wednesday it expects omicron to become the predominant coronavirus variant in the Americas in the coming weeks, where confirmed cases have reached record levels.

The health agency added that although healthcare systems face challenges with rising hospitalizations, vaccination has meant that COVID-19 deaths have not increased at the same rate as infections.

"While delta is still causing new infections in the Americas, based on current trends, omicron is on track to become the dominant strain in our region," Carissa Etienne, director of the agency known by its initials PAHO, said during an online news conference.

PAHO said coronavirus virus infections across the Americas almost doubled to 6.1 million on Jan. 8, from 3.4 million cases on Jan. 1. The number of cases was 250% higher than a year earlier, when there were 2.4 million.

It said that in the first week of 2022, deaths related to COVID-19 in the Americas increased 31% from the previous week.

The omicron variant, which spreads more easily, has been detected in 42 of the 56 countries and territories of the Americas.

The United States is reporting the highest number of cases, while Canada is also registering a rebound. In the Caribbean, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic have seen the highest increases, while Belize and Panama have seen rises in Central America.

In South America, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil have all registered rising numbers of cases, with Argentina and Paraguay reporting a 300% increase in coronavirus cases over the past week, according to the health organization.

Omicron can infect vaccinated people and those who have already come down with the virus, but some studies indicate that it is less likely to cause more severe illness than the delta variant and that immunization and booster doses offer strong protection.

But PAHO warned that omicron can still be lethal among the unvaccinated and immunocompromised and urged countries to continue with their vaccination and prevention campaigns.

Almost 60% of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean has been fully vaccinated, but some 10 countries in the region—especially in the Caribbean—did not reach the goal of 40% set by the World Health Organization for the end of 2021. That goal is 70% for the middle of this year.

Pipeline spills 300,000 gallons of diesel near New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A severely corroded pipeline ruptured and spilled more than 300,000 gallons (1.1 million liters) of diesel fuel just outside New Orleans after the operator delayed needed repairs, according to federal records.

Most of the fuel drained into two artificial ponds called "borrow pits" and thousands of fish, birds and other animals were killed, state and local officials said Wednesday. The spill also contaminated soil, according to state and federal officials.

New Mexico woman pleads not guilty to putting baby in trash

HOBBS, N.M. (AP)—An 18-year-old New Mexico woman accused of abandoning her newborn baby in a dumpster pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges of attempted first-degree murder and child abuse.

Alexis Avila of Hobbs was told by a Lea County judge at her arraignment that she can stay out of jail pending trial and set house arrest as a main condition of release.

Police said a group of people were looking through a dumpster for anything of val-

The pipeline's owner said 315,000 gallons (1.2 million gallons) of fuel with some water mixed in had been skimmed and recovered, primarily from the ponds. Clean-up work is ongoing.

The spill from the 16-inch-diameter (40-centimeter-diameter) line operated by Collins Pipeline Co. was discovered Dec. 27 near a levee in St. Bernard Parish, just east of New Orleans, according to documents from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The

spill had not been previously publicly reported.

An inspection of the 42-year-old Meraux Pipeline more than a year earlier, in October 2020, revealed external corrosion along a 22-foot (7-meter) section of pipe at the same site as the spill, federal records show.

The pipe had apparently lost 75% of its metal where the corrosion was worst, which would have required immediate repair, according to the records. But work was delayed and the line continued operat-

ue last Friday in Hobbs, near the Texas border, when they heard what they thought was a dog or kitten.

They moved a trash bag and found a baby inside, wrapped in a dirty blanket with its umbilical cord still attached.

They immediately called authorities and tried to keep the boy warm until police and paramedics arrived.

Investigators used surveillance video to identify a car suspected of being involved. That led them to Avila, who

admitted to giving birth at another location and then leaving the baby in a dumpster.

Questioned by police, Avila said she was not aware that she was pregnant until Jan. 6 when she sought medical attention for abdominal pain.

She told detectives that she was experiencing stomach pain the next day and unexpectedly gave birth.

Search warrants for Avila's car and her family's home turned up blood evidence, clothing and a towel.

Authorities said the infant is in the care of the New Mexico Department of Children, Youth and Families.

Like other states, New Mexico has a safe haven law, which allows parents to leave a baby younger than 90 days at a safe location without criminal consequences. The laws began to pass in state legislatures around the nation in the early 2000s in response to reports of gruesome baby killings and abandonments, which received copious media attention.

Asia

SKorean rescuers locate man at collapsed construction site

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean rescue workers at a collapsed construction site in the southern city of Gwangju located a man amid a pile of debris and broken concrete on their third day searching for six missing construction workers, officials said Thursday.

Crews are trying to clear out the rubble to reach the man, but have yet to confirm whether he is alive or one of the missing workers, said Yoo Man-geun, a Gwangju city official.

Dozens of rescue workers, assisted by dogs and drones equipped with thermal cameras, are searching the site, but their efforts have been slowed over worries about the stability of the high-rise building, which had been under construction in the city's Hwajeongdong district before it partially collapsed on Tuesday.

HDC Hyundai Development, the main contractor for the apartment project, plans to deploy unmanned excavators to clear out the rubble and to use nettings and other safety measures in case the structure further crumbles, Gwangju



A rescuer searches through debris for workers who went missing in an apartment construction accident in Gwangju, South Korea, Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022.

Mayor Lee Yong-seop said.

About 10 vehicles were destroyed and nearly 200

households and shops nearby were forced to evacuate following the partial collapse of

the building, which sent debris spilling across nearby streets and left a huge pile of rubble

beneath the towering, 39-floor structure that is now exposing mangled steel beams.

The incident has triggered public anger in a country that has long grappled with deadly accidents attributed to lax safety standards and regulations, which experts say were often overlooked as the country rose from poverty and war to an Asian economic powerhouse.

South Korean President

Moon Jae-in on Wednesday ordered officials to investigate the cause of Tuesday's collapse and called for stronger safety measures to prevent similar accidents.

Officials said 394 workers had been employed at the construction site, including the six who remain unaccounted for following the accident.

Emergency workers rescued three laborers on Tuesday, including two who had been trapped in a shipping container pounded by debris, but search operations were halted hours later over concerns that the structure could further cave in.

The search resumed on Wednesday following a safety inspection by government and private experts, who concluded it was safe for rescuers to search the building's interior. The inspectors were concerned about sections near the structure's crumbled exterior and the heap of rubble, which were predominantly searched by dogs and drones.

Gwangju's city government has suspended all ongoing construction work in Gwangju by HDC as it opened an investigation into the cause of the accident.

HDC was also involved in a deadly accident in Gwangju last June, when a five-story building that was being demolished for a construction project collapsed and sent debris falling onto a bus, killing nine people on board.

China's Tianjin orders more testing of 14 million residents

BEIJING (AP)—The northern Chinese city of Tianjin ordered a second round of COVID-19 testing of all 14 million residents Wednesday following the discovery of 97 cases of the omicron variant during initial screenings that began Sunday.

Residents were asked to remain where they are until the results of all the nucleic acid tests are received, the official

Xinhua News Agency said.

Xinhua said authorities have carried out almost 12 million tests so far, with 7.8 million samples returned. Infections were first reported on Saturday in the city that is only about an hour from Beijing, which is to host the Winter Olympics from Feb. 4.

High-speed rail service and other forms of transportation between the cities

have been suspended, leading to some disruptions in supply chains, including for packaged food items sold in convenience stores.

Tianjin's COVID-19 prevention and control office said all who have tested positive in the initial testing round were found to have the omicron variant, of which China has so far only reported a small number of cases. The source of the

outbreak is still unknown and many who are spreading the variant may be doing so unwittingly because they show no symptoms.

Also in the north, two college students who traveled earlier this month by train from Tianjin tested positive for the virus Wednesday in the city of Dalian, city officials said. There was no word on what variant they had contracted.

Rat who detected land mines in Cambodia dies in retirement

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—A land mine-detecting rat in Cambodia who received a prestigious award for his life-saving duty has died in retirement, the charity for which he had worked has announced.

Magawa, an African giant pouched rat, passed away last weekend, said an announcement on the website of APOPO, a Belgium-headquartered non-profit group. The organization trains rats and dogs to sniff out land mines and tuberculosis.

"All of us at APOPO are feeling the loss of Magawa and we are grateful for the incredible work he's done," the announcement said. Magawa was born in November 2013 in Tanzania, where APOPO maintains its operational headquarters and training and breeding center. He was sent to Cambodia in 2016.



In this undated photo issued by the PDSA, People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, Cambodian landmine detection rat, Magawa is photographed wearing his PDSA Gold Medal, the animal equivalent of the George Cross, in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

The death of Magawa was announced a day after three mine removal experts working for another group were killed by an accidental explosion of an anti-tank mine in Cambodia's

northern province of Preah Vihear. Almost three decades of civil war that ended in 1998 left Cambodia littered with land mines and other unexploded ordnance that continues to kill and maim.

APOPO's office in Cambodia posted condolences for the three dead and one wounded from the Cambodia Self Help Demining group.

According to APOPO, Magawa detected more than 100 land mines and other explosives during his five-year career before retiring last year.

"His contribution allows communities in Cambodia to live, work, and play without fear of losing life or limb," said the group. In 2020, the rat also won a gold medal from the Britain-based People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, considered the highest award for gallantry an animal can receive.

African giant pouched rats are believed to be especially well-suited for land mine clearance because their small size lets them walk across mine fields without triggering the explosives.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan sentences 4 to death over attack near militant home

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP)—A Pakistani court on Wednesday sentenced four men to death for their involvement in a car bombing last year that killed four people near the residence of an anti-India militant leader. The court also served up a five-year jail term for a woman convicted of facilitating the attack in the eastern city of Lahore, according to a statement released by the Punjab province Counter Terrorism Department. All five of the convicted—including the four men convicted of murder—are Pakistani and were arrested after the June 23 attack last year near the residence of anti-India militant leader Hafiz Saeed. Saeed has been designated a terrorist by the U.S. Justice Department and has a \$10 million bounty on his head.

US hits NKorean officials with sanctions after missile test

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration on Wednesday slapped sanctions on five North Korean officials in its first response to Pyongyang's latest ballistic missile test and later announced it will also seek new U.N. sanctions. The Treasury Department said it was imposing penalties on the five officials over their roles in obtaining equipment and technology for the North's missile programs. In addition, the State Department ordered sanctions against another North Korean, a Russian man and a Russian company for their broader support of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction activities. The Treasury's moves came just hours after North Korea said leader Kim Jong Un oversaw a successful flight test of a hypersonic missile on Tuesday that he claimed would greatly increase the country's nuclear "war deterrent."

World

Car bomb hits outside Mogadishu airport in Somalia; 8 killed

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—A car bomb exploded Wednesday outside the international airport in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, killing at least eight people and wounding nine others, a local doctor said. The al-Shabab extremist group claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was targeting "white officials" passing by.

Dr. Abdulkadir Adam with the Medina hospital told The Associated Press about the death toll. Witnesses at the scene said a passing U.N. convoy appeared to be the target in the blast near a checkpoint leading to the heavily fortified airport, but the U.N. mission said there were no U.N. personnel or contractors in the convoy.

The al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group, which



controls parts of Somalia, said via its Radio Andalus that a convoy of "white officials" had been the target. The extremist group often carries out bombings at high-profile locations in the capital.

Mogadishu's deputy mayor,

Ali Abdi Wardhere, told reporters at the scene that his own convoy had been driving nearby at the time but was unharmed. He said an investigation was underway and gave a toll of five soldiers killed and five civilians injured.

The international airport

hosts the U.S. Embassy, among other diplomatic offices.

The blast occurred amid the latest period of political and security uncertainty in Somalia, the Horn of Africa nation where tensions are rising over an election that has been delayed for almost a year.

The African Union peacekeeping mission has been asked to contribute security outside Somalia's presidential palace, where opposing armed factions supporting President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed and Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein

Roble have been present. The two leaders disagree over, among other issues, who should be in charge of security in the country.

The president late last month tried to limit the powers of the prime minister, who called it an attempted coup.

Anti-vaccine protesters try to storm Bulgarian parliament

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP)—Protesters opposing COVID-19 restrictions in Bulgaria clashed Wednesday with police as they tried to storm the Parliament in the capital of Sofia.

A heavy police presence prevented protesters from entering the building and some were detained. Several people, including police officers, were injured during the clashes. Eventually, the protesters were pushed back and police cor-

doned off the building.

The violence erupted at a protest rally against mask and vaccine mandates organized by a nationalist group that is fiercely opposing the Bulgarian government's anti-epidemic measures.

"The aim of the protest is to remove the restrictive measures and especially, first of all, the unconstitutional green certificate," Kostadin Kostadinov, leader of the Vazrazhdane party, said ahead of the protest.

The nationalist group, which holds 13 seats in Parliament's 240-seat chamber, has won support among opponents of coronavirus restrictions.

The nearly 1,000 protesters, who waved national flags and sang patriotic songs, remained at the square in front of the National Assembly, saying they planned to stay there until their demands for abolishing the mandatory face masks and green vaccination status passes are met.

Bulgaria, which is facing a new surge in infections, is the least vaccinated country in the 27-member European Union, with only a third of its population fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Speaking from his home, where he is quarantined for contacts with an infected person, Prime Minister Kiril Petkov called for calm and invited representatives of the protesters to his office on Friday to discuss their demands.

HRW: Democracy must step up as autocrats face turning point

GENEVA (AP)—A top rights activist feels populist autocrats could be facing a turning point as people learn that stirring words don't always translate into action, but he says democratic politicians will have to step up with "visionary leadership" to keep autocrats from getting a second chance.

Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, wants to counter what he sees as "conventional wisdom" holding that autocrats are in the ascendancy. He commented as the New York-based advocacy group on Thursday released its annual report chronicling the human rights situations in roughly 100 countries where it works — from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.

In a video interview, Roth highlighted three places that top his long list of concerns for the coming year: Ethiopia's Tigray region, Myanmar and Sudan. He also pointed to how leaders in countries like Russia, Belarus and Nicaragua last year resorted to sham or manipulated "zombie elections" that had no credibility, saying

they were exposed in acts "of desperation and weakness."

In China, President Xi Jinping and his supporters claim that he is loved by the people, but "he wouldn't dare have an election," Roth said.

He said Myanmar's junta is trying to retain power by force and "massive" public resistance but defections from the military have emerged even as a crackdown has killed some 1,400 demonstrators. U.N. experts have warned that the country could be sliding into civil war.

"This could get very ugly because the junta has completely lost the respect of the people," Roth said.

While fighting has diminished in Ethiopia, he noted that hundreds of thousands of people in Tigray remain on "the brink of starvation" and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has shown no sign of easing a blockade on the region where more than a year-long war has created a devastating humanitarian crisis.

Roth said that at the turn of the century, "there was this sense that 'Oh, democracy has

won.'" But many people in democratic countries soon felt left behind and grew resentful, he said, which "provided fertile ground for populist autocratic leaders to gain power, promising the moon, saying, 'We're going to serve you better.'"

"In the end, they didn't," Roth said. "I think what we're seeing now is a turning point because people recognize that that rhetoric may be 'nice'—you know, they may be demonizing unpopular minorities, or women's rights, or LGBT rights—but they're not delivering anything."

But autocrats stumbling is "not going to be enough," he said. "Democracy is going to have to reinvigorate itself and really rise to the occasion in a way that it hasn't so far."

He cautioned that democratic leaders are often "too mired in partisan battles and short-term preoccupations" to address issues like climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty, racial injustice and the challenges presented by technology, which all affect people's lives.



Women chant slogans protesting sexual violence, days after the U.N. human rights office called for an independent investigation into allegations of sexual violence including rape and gang rape during mass anti-coup protests in Sudan earlier this week, in the twin city of Omdurman, northwest of the capital Khartoum, Sudan, Dec. 23, 2021.

Roth offered criticism for Western governments, saying Germany under former Chancellor Angela Merkel promoted an investment deal with China even as Berlin led condemnation of the Chinese government's "crimes against humanity" in the western re-

gion of Xinjiang. China says it is providing vocational and other training to Muslim Uyghurs in the region in what critics call detention centers.

The government of French President Emmanuel Macron of France "was blind to the abysmal situation in Egypt,"

Roth said. And he faulted President Joe Biden's administration for promising a U.S. foreign policy led by human rights but then continuing "to sell arms to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel despite their persistent repression."



UK: Sculpture by controversial artist attacked with hammer

LONDON (AP)—British police on Wednesday cordoned off an area outside the BBC's Broadcasting House in central London after a man was spotted scaling the building and

A man, after climbing a ladder, stands next to the statue of Prospero and Ariel from Shakespeare's play *The Tempest* by the sculptor Eric Gill outside the BBC's Broadcasting House in central London, Wednesday Jan. 12, 2022.

using a hammer to attack a statue by controversial sculptor Eric Gill.

Officers and ambulance workers rush to the scene after receiving reports that a man had used a ladder to reach the 10-foot-tall sculpture above the building's front entrance. The sculpture, depicting Ariel and Prospero from the Shakespeare play *"The Tempest,"* was installed in the 1930s.

It was created by Gill, a

prominent British artist who died in 1940. His diaries, which were published decades after his death, revealed that he sexually abused his daughters and the family dog.

The sculpture had previously drawn criticism and activist groups have demanded its removal.

The Metropolitan Police said officers attempted to "engage with the man," and that another man was arrested on

suspicion of conspiracy to commit criminal damage.

The incident came a week after a jury cleared four protesters of criminal damage after they pulled down a statue of 17th-century slave trader Edward Colston during a Black Lives Matter demonstration in the city of Bristol in June 2020. The four protesters, who threw the statue into the harbor after toppling it, were acquitted on Jan. 5 following an 11-day trial.

Off The Wall

Norway to recruits: Return undies after military service

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Conscripts in Norway have been ordered to return their underwear, bras and socks after the end of their military service so that the next group of recruits can use them.

The Norwegian military said Monday that it is struggling with dwindling supplies, in part due to the pandemic.

The Norwegian Defense Logistics Organization said because of “a challenging stockpile situation, this move is necessary as it provides the Armed Forces with greater garment volumes available for new soldiers starting their initial service.”

Its press spokesman Hans Meisingset said that with “prop-

er checks and cleaning, the reuse of garments is considered an adequate and sound practice.”

Until recently, the roughly 8,000 young men and women who every year do their military service returned their outer clothing but were allowed to leave barracks with the underwear and socks they were issued.

Military service is mandatory for both men and women in Norway and lasts between 12 and 19 months.

Meisingset said the pandemic was not the only reason why the stock of garments is low for some items. It also depends on finance, contracts and other issues.

NATO-member Norway’s

national defense magazine, Forsvarets Forum, reported that it was not the first time that the Armed Forces had struggled with such shortcomings, with a union spokesman saying it “has been a recurring problem” for years. In June 2020, a third of the soldiers’ clothing and equipment was missing.

“A year ago, we looked at exactly the same shortcomings in close-fitting clothing that we see now, and earlier this autumn, the largest and smallest sizes of footwear were missing,” Eirik Sjoehelle Eiksund was quoted as saying, adding that he believed it was due to errors in the system around ordering and delivery.

Maine’s famous spinning ice disk says hello



The Westbrook ice disk has returned to the Presumpscot River below Saccarappa Falls, Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022, in Westbrook, Maine. The disk has begun to form in the Presumpscot River, where it partially formed in 2020 but failed to draw a worldwide audience like in its first appearance in 2019.

(BEN MCCANNA/PORTLAND PRESS HERALD VIA AP)

WESTBROOK, Maine (AP)—Maine’s famous rotating ice disk is back.

The disk has begun to form in the Presumpscot River, where it partially formed in 2020 but failed to draw a worldwide audience like in its first appearance in 2019.

Westbrook city officials shared photos of the formation

Wednesday on Facebook, encouraging residents to share more images of the disk while it’s still around.

Ice disks form as a result of a current and vortex under the ice. Ice sheets begin to spin and then form into circles. But ice disks this large rarely form in locations like Westbrook.

City officials discouraged anyone from attempting to go out on the ice: “It is not safe.”

Three years ago, a 100-yard-wide (91 meters) ice formation appeared in the river for the first time and brought international attention to Westbrook before it dissipated with the advent of warmer weather.

Bartender’s tip leads to arrest in buoy burning

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)—Always remember to tip your server, if you know what’s good for you.

A tourist made a big impression in a Key West bar by ordering drinks three times on New Year’s Eve without leaving a tip. That enabled the staff to easily track him down after police released webcam video showing vandals setting fire to a Christmas tree.

The arson caused more than \$5,000 in damage to the city’s landmark buoy mark-

ing the southernmost point in the United States, and sent the island’s “coconut telegraph” gossip chain into high alert, the Miami Herald reported Tuesday.

Like other locals across the city, bartender Cameron Briody watched the video, and recognized the 21-year-old man who had stiffed him at Irish Kevin’s on Key West’s famous Duval Street. “I knew immediately that I had served him and that he had used a card, so his name

would be on the slips,” Briody told the Herald.

The bar’s general manager, Daylin Starks, turned to recordings from the “ton of cameras” that watch over the bar each night, and matched credit card receipts to time-stamped videos of the man and his 22-year-old friend.

“We could follow them the whole time, in and out of the bar,” Starks said. “We could see them getting rejected from all the girls they were trying to hit on.”

Science & Technology

Turkmenistan’s leader wants ‘Gates of Hell’ flames put out

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan (AP)—The president of Turkmenistan is calling for an end to one of the country’s most notable but infernal sights—the blazing natural gas crater widely referred to as the “Gates of Hell.”

The desert crater located about 260 kilometers (160 miles) north of the capital, Ashgabat, has burned for decades and is a popular sight for the small number of tourists who come to Turkmenistan, a country which is difficult to enter.

The Turkmen news site Turkmenportal said a 1971 gas-drilling collapse formed the crater, which is about 60 meters (190 feet) in diameter and 20 meters (70 feet) deep. To prevent the spread of gas, geologists set a fire, expect-



The crater fire named “Gates of Hell” is seen near Darvaza, Turkmenistan, Saturday, July 11, 2020. AP PHOTO/ALEXANDER VERSHININ

ing the gas to burn off in a few weeks.

The spectacular if unwellcome fire that has burned ever since is so renowned that state TV showed President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov speeding around it in an off-road truck in 2019.

But Berdimukhamedov has ordered his government to look for ways to put the fire out because it is causing ecological damage and affecting the health of people living in the area, state newspaper Neitralny Turkmenistan reported Saturday.

Why a Mac cursor may disappear and how to fix it

Q: Sometimes the cursor disappears from the screen of my five-year-old MacBook Air laptop. If I open and close the “lid” of the laptop, the cursor eventually reappears. What’s wrong? Does it indicate that more serious problems are about to occur?

A: The disappearing cursor problem is common on Macs, and usually isn’t serious. But there are several potential causes, and you’ll have to figure out through trial and error which one is the source of your problem. Here are some of the common causes:

■ You may not have enough RAM memory available because of the way you use the Mac. RAM (random access memory) chips temporarily store data for software that’s currently running. But you can use up your RAM storage capacity if you run too many Web browsers or other apps at the same time, or if you use two or more computer screens at once.

■ An app may be interfering with the cursor. To find the culprit, “force quit” apps one at a time.

■ Your Mac may have malware; run the free version of Malwarebytes (tinyurl.com/4sbj2pah).

■ If you use a wireless mouse, its battery charge may be low.

■ If you’ve recently installed a new operating

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER

Star Tribune

Email tech questions to Steve Alexander at steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



system, you may need new Mac software drivers for a wireless mouse (see tinyurl.com/5n9426s2) or new mouse “firmware” (software for a particular device) from the manufacturer’s website.

■ If you watch YouTube videos while using other apps, the video may be causing the cursor to disappear. This is by design; the cursor isn’t supposed to be visible while a video is playing.

(For details about disappearing cursor causes and fixes, see tinyurl.com/bdevvfdn or tinyurl.com/bde3rp7h or tinyurl.com/yv7xzupn).

■ ■ ■

Q: Comcast e-mail has gradually stopped delivering newsletters I subscribe to from the New York Times, clothing retailers Uniqlo and & Other Stories, the Minnesota Orchestra, the British newspaper Daily Telegraph, the activist Environmental Working Group, the Associated Press and others. I later learned those e-mails had been misclassified as spam and sent to the spam folder—although I can’t find them there. I tried your advice about disabling the Comcast spam filter (see

tinyurl.com/yckvt3xh), but it didn’t help. I also didn’t get any help from Comcast’s technical support people. Do I need to get a new e-mail provider?

A: Because spam is sent out in vast quantities every day (a process called bulk mailing), e-mail spam filters are designed to scrutinize all bulk mail, including newsletters. As a result, legitimate newsletters are sometimes misclassified as spam.

If that happens to you, you should be able to go into your Comcast spam folder, reclassify your newsletters as “not spam” and have them delivered to your inbox in the future. But you face two obstacles: Comcast’s spam filter has a history of misclassifying too many legitimate e-mails as spam. In addition, anything that’s classified as spam is deleted from your spam folder in seven days. As a result, you need to look in your spam folder every day or you could lose an e-mail that you really want.

If you don’t want to put up with that, try using a free e-mail account from Microsoft’s Outlook.com, Google’s Gmail or Yahoo Mail.

'Other woman' rebuilds her life after affair fizzles

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: I'm a 38-year-old woman who used to be nice. Then I had a three-year affair. Knowing I'm one of America's bigger fools—and for such a long time—is infuriating, but I finally saw the light. The only person I think is a bigger fool than me is his wife.

Some "highlights" of our romance: He gave me an STD during spring break, I found "Ally's" phone number in his contact file, and I saw a blonde in a white convertible drop him off in front of his house at 9:15 in the morning, which, according to him, "never happened." My eyes don't lie. After I was struck by a car in a crosswalk, he never once called me to see how I was. After that, his teenage son followed me around town flipping me off and shouting obscenities at me. There's more, but I'll spare you.

Please warn your readers to stay away from affairs. They demean you, your mate will lose trust in you, and the person you're having the affair with—can that person ever really be trusted? Won't he cheat on you, too? This "wonderful" man is an elementary school teacher. (Think about what he is teaching your kids, folks!)

Like I said, I used to be nice. I used to care and trust. No more! This man changed not only my entire life but also my family's. Will I ever forgive MYSELF?

P.S. I have spent thousands of dollars for counseling. It's a lot of money, but I am worth it.

FINALLY SAW THE LIGHT

DEAR FINALLY: Love may be blind, but I'm pleased you finally saw the light. I'm also pleased that you realized you needed professional help to regain some self-esteem. Your bitterness jumps off the pages of your letter. If you work on that with your counselor, too, it will be money well spent.

DEAR ABBY: I was widowed 10 years ago after 34 years of marriage. My late husband's sister, "Barbara," who is also now a widow with no children or other family, considers me her sister and friend. Abby, I have NEVER felt close to her. We are very different, and neither my husband nor I had any real contact with her other than occasional holiday gatherings.

Barbara is a domineering, self-pitying hypochondriac with no friends left she hasn't alienated. We live fairly near each other, and I have the feeling since the loss of her husband three years ago that she's expecting me to be her companion and caregiver going into her elder years. I'd slit my wrists first!

I married my husband "until death do us part," not his family. I don't want to hurt Barbara's feelings; I just want to enjoy my own senior years. How can I gently remove myself from Barbara's game plan?

DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR THIS

DEAR DIDN'T SIGN UP: "Gently" remove yourself from Barbara's game plan by being increasingly less available. She may be strong-willed and domineering, but you do NOT have to knuckle under to her wishes or be a dumping ground for her problems.

If she asks to get together, be busy. If she's depressed, suggest grief counseling, which has helped so many. If she suggests you help her going into her declining years, explain that won't be possible because you plan to travel. You do not have to be cruel or heavy-handed about standing up for yourself. Just hang on to your sense of humor and keep your distance.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Life & Style

Jason Momoa, Lisa Bonet split after 16 years together

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jason Momoa and wife Lisa Bonet have ended their 16-year relationship.

A joint statement posted on the "Aquaman" star's Instagram page Wednesday that he and his wife were parting ways.

"We have all felt the squeeze and changes of these transformational times... A revolution is unfolding (tilde)and our family is of no exception," the post said, adding that they were announcing the split so "as we go about our lives we may do so with dignity and honesty."

Momoa, 42, and Bonet, 54, met and started dating in 2005 and officially married in late 2017. They have a son and daughter together.

Bonet, who rose to fame



(PHOTO BY JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION/AP, FILE)

Lisa Bonet, left, and Jason Momoa arrive at the 77th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, in Beverly Hills, Calif. The couple have ended their 16-year relationship. A joint statement posted on the "Aquaman" star's Instagram page Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022, said that Momoa and his wife were parting ways.

playing one of Bill Cosby's daughters on "The Cosby

Show" and its spinoff, "A Different World," was previ-

ously married to rocker Lenny Kravitz.

Will Smith, Lady Gaga, Ben Affleck score SAG nominations

NEW YORK (AP)—The Oscar race may be missing in-person glitz this year, but it doesn't lack for star power. Will Smith, Lady Gaga and Ben Affleck landed individual nominations for the 28th Screen Actors Guild Awards on Wednesday, while the casts of "Belfast" and "CODA" were among those nominated for the guild's top award, best ensemble.

The nominees were announced Wednesday by actors Vanessa Hudgens and Rosario Dawson on Instagram Live. While the nominations were conducted virtually due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, the streamed announcement still represented one of the most meaningful mornings in an awards season largely snuffed out by the pandemic.

Joining Kenneth Branagh's semi-autobiographical "Belfast" and the coming-of-age drama "CODA" for best ensemble were the casts for Ridley Scott's true-tale, high-camp "House of Gucci," Adam McKay's apocalypse comedy "Don't Look Up" and the family tennis drama "King Richard." Notably left out were the casts of Steven Spielberg's lavish "West Side Story" revival (which landed a supporting nod for Ariana DeBose) and Jane Campion's "The Power of the Dog." Campion's gothic drama, though, landed individual SAG nominations for Benedict Cumberbatch, Kirsten Dunst and Kodi Smit-McPhee.

The SAG Awards have more of the awards season

spotlight this year since the Golden Globes—usually the kickoff party to final Oscar stretch—made barely a peep. The Globes were unceremoniously announced Sunday on Twitter in a private ceremony due to Hollywood's boycott of the beleaguered Hollywood

Foreign Press Association over diversity and ethical issues. The omicron surge also prompted the Critics Choice Awards to postpone its Jan. 9 in-person gala. For the second straight year, Oscar season has gone virtual—and struggled to make much noise.

Machine Gun Kelly takes knee under tree, Megan Fox says yes



(AP PHOTO/CHRIS PIZZELLO, FILE)

Megan Fox, right, and Machine Gun Kelly attend the iHeartRadio Music Awards on May 27, 2021, in Los Angeles. Fox and Kelly are engaged. The actor and rapper have decided to legalize their dramatically eccentric coupling, according to Instagram videos that each posted Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Megan Fox and Machine Gun Kelly are engaged.

The actor and rapper have decided to legalize their dramatically eccentric coupling, according to Instagram videos that each posted Wednesday.

Fox shared video of Kelly taking a knee at the top of a flight of outdoor stairs under the tree where the two say they fell in love in July of 2020.

"Somehow a year and a half later, having walked through hell together, and having laughed more than I ever imagined possible, he asked me to marry him," Fox wrote in the post. "And just as in

every lifetime before this one, and in every lifetime that will follow it, I said yes."

An Instagram video from Kelly shows Fox wearing the two merged rings he had made for the occasion, with a diamond and an emerald that form "the obscure heart that is our love."

Fox ended her post with, "and then we drank each other's blood," a moment not shown in the video.

It's the second marriage for Fox, the 35-year-old star of the "Transformers" films. She was married to actor Brian Austin Green from 2010 to 2021. The two have three sons together.

Film armorer blames ammo supplier in deadly 'Rust' shooting

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—A new lawsuit accused an ammunition supplier Wednesday of creating dangerous conditions on a movie set where a gun held by actor Alec Baldwin killed a cinematographer, by including live ammunition in a box that was supposed to include only dummy rounds.

The lawsuit was filed in New Mexico state district court by Hannah Gutierrez Reed, the armorer who oversaw firearms, ammunition and related training on the set of "Rust" along with two colleagues. Cinematographer Halyna Hutchins died on Oct. 21 from a gunshot wound during a "Rust" rehearsal at a ranch on the outskirts of Santa Fe in northern New Mexico.

The Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office that is leading an investigation into the cause of the death has said it is too soon to determine whether charges will be filed. Investigators have described "some complacency" in how weapons were handled on set.

The lawsuit from Gutierrez Reed places blame on ammunition supplier Seth Kenney and his company PDQ Arm & Prop for introducing live rounds to the set where only blanks and dummies were supposed to be present.

"The introduction of live rounds onto the set, which no one anticipated, combined with the rushed and chaotic atmosphere, created a perfect storm for a safety incident," the lawsuit states.

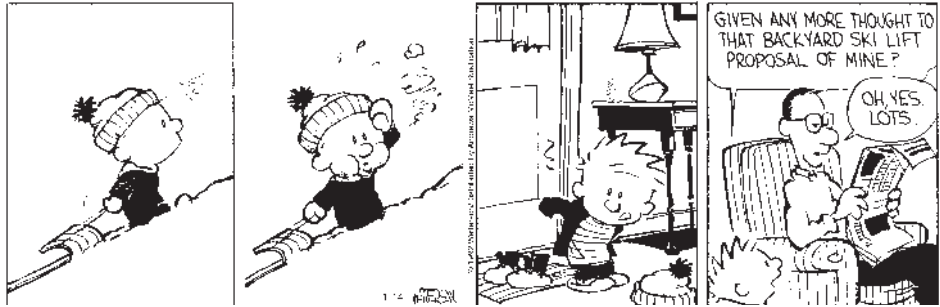
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

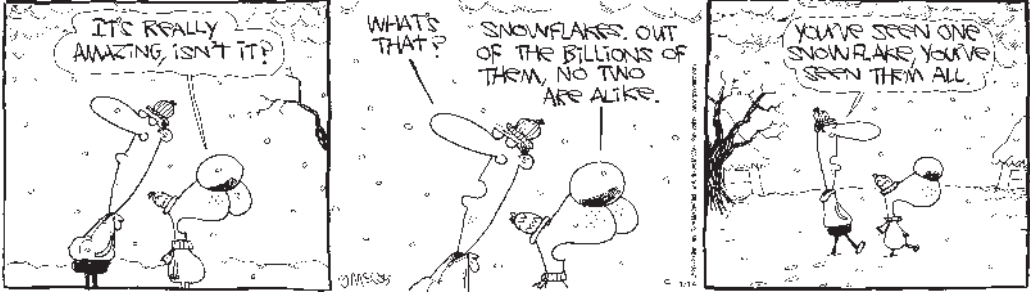


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Gold-loving king 6 Soviet space station 9 Actress Dennings 12 "That — I ask" 13 Longoria of TV 14 Writer LeShan 15 "What — mean?" 16 Journal 18 Singer Timberlake 20 Monster 21 Med. plan option 23 Sweetie 24 Different 25 Exile isle 27 Russian villa 29 Deceived 31 There 35 Rocker Adams 37 Harvard rival 38 City near Venice

DOWN 1 Prefix with gender 43 Shriek bark 44 Teensy bit 45 Frenzied 47 Pampering places 49 Dizzying designs 52 Dad on "Black-ish" 53 Swiss canton 54 Bellini opera 55 Feminine side 56 Favorite 57 Idyllic spots

21 Skirt edge 22 Roman 1051 24 Discoverer's call 26 Photo collections 28 Doubter 30 Notable time 32 Workplace perk, maybe 33 Yalie 34 Gym unit 36 Nails the test 38 Rice field 39 Arcade pioneer 40 Senior member 42 14 pounds 45 Aesopian also-ran 46 Apple product 48 Young dog 50 LBJ's successor 51 Prof's aides

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterdays answer 1-14

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dave Grohl, 53; Jason Bateman, 53; LL Cool J, 54; Holland Taylor, 79.

Happy Birthday: Pour your heart and soul into whatever you do this year. Your drive and determination will lead to positive change. Keep up with what's trending. Draw on your skills, and concentrate on making adjustments that help you stay ahead of the competition. Refuse to let what others do or say stand in your way or cause you to second-guess your plans. Your numbers are 6, 13, 24, 28, 35, 39, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Touch base with enthusiastic people who contribute to something you want to pursue. You'll have plenty of good ideas to share, and the information you receive will lead to fruitful prospects. Don't take a risk with your health or reputation. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Look at your finances and make adjustments that will help you save for something you want. Don't get involved in joint ventures or a situation where you share expenses. A personal change will boost your ego. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put your reputation first, and stick to your principles, regardless of what others do or say. Stick to what you know, and don't deviate from your plans because someone does. Be smart when it comes to health and well-being. Avoid excessive behavior. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Expand your interests and explore possibilities. Adapt your plans to include someone you

like to spend time with, and it will bring you closer together. The information you receive will encourage you to make better financial decisions. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put your heart on the line by expressing your feelings. Socialize with people who inspire you rather than those who are needy. Don't let the decisions and changes that others make disrupt your plans. Do what makes you happy. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be observant, gather information. Listen to what others have to say, but don't believe everything you hear. A relationship with someone close to you will require attention. A show of affection will ease tension and ward off an emotional incident. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do your best, and finish what you start. Keep busy, and you'll avoid criticism, misunderstandings and emotional difficulties with a friend, relative or colleague. Honor promises, do your fair share and stick to the truth, and you'll be happy with what you achieve. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make adjustments that support saving. Lower your overhead, and change your lifestyle to fit your budget. Getting the most for the least will ease stress and encourage a minimalist attitude. Discuss your plans with someone who shares expenses with you. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be shy; if you have a question, ask. A detailed description of what you want and expect will help you avoid feeling let down when you ask someone to do something for you.

EUGENIA LAST



THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Have a backup plan in place. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look for a unique way to use your skills, and you'll discover something you can offer at a premium. Explore and expand your interests, and you'll capture attention from someone who can help you advance. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put some thought into your home and surroundings, and you'll come up with a plan that will help you implement adjustments that add comfort and convenience. Do the work yourself, and you'll avoid having someone take advantage of you. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotions will surface if you let someone manipulate you. Recognize what others are doing, protect your reputation and take pride in what you do. It's OK to be different or to do your own thing. Personal growth is favored. **

Birthday Baby: You are articulate, entertaining and practical. You are energetic and insightful.

☾ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼ Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/14

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterdays Answer

2 1 3 8 4 6 9 7 5
4 7 9 1 5 3 6 2 8
6 5 8 7 9 2 1 4 3
1 3 7 6 2 8 5 9 4
9 2 5 4 1 7 3 8 6
8 4 6 9 3 5 2 1 7
3 9 4 5 7 1 8 6 2
5 6 1 2 8 4 7 3 9
7 8 2 3 6 9 4 5 1

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ASIAN RIVERS Solution: 9 letters

A I A N H S I R K V I T I M K
T I R N U G R A R T C H A O A
B H D R N K M G N O L A Y P M
R V A O A A O A B B N N R A I
A I K I B W R N A O E A H A H
H E H E L M A N D L L A D N S
M T U R A A A D O A N S E L I
A N V D N A N C D A L E H N A
P A A E Y A A A D D Y W A J O M
U M L R G H A H K L E E K L Y
T I R M K S I K A A L L I O L
R I A R I I U S P T I A L M O
A Y A A I R R V U E O D R O K
A M N U A A A S A T Y U N G W
S Y L A H H L T S S I R G I T

© 2022 ArcNews/McMee Syndication www.wonderword.com 1/14
Aidan, Amga, Anadyr, Aras, Argun, Asian, Bolshoy, Brahmaputra, Cambodia, Chao, Hays, Hari, Helmand, Huai, India, Irrawaddy, Ishim, Kala, Kama, Kapuas, Kolyma, Konda, Krishna, Kura, Lena, Liao, Mahanadhi, Markha, Maya, Mekong, Narmada, Olenyok, Omolon, Salween, Sutlej, Tapi, Tarim, Thailand, Tigris, Tobol, Tura, Tyung, Ural, Vietnam, Vitim, Yalong, Yellow

Yesterdays Answer: Nobility
Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand!
Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-842-6482.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Durant, Harden lead Nets to 138-112 romp over Bulls

CHICAGO (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 27 points, James Harden added 25 points and a season-high 16 assists, and the Brooklyn Nets rolled to an easy win over Chicago, beating the Bulls 138-112 Wednesday night in a matchup between the Eastern Conference's top two teams.

Durant had 17 points in the third. The second-place Nets outscored East-leading Chicago by 20 in the quarter to silence a raucous crowd and came away with the win with all three superstars in the lineup for just the second time.

Kyrie Irving scored nine in his third game. The seven-time All-Star has refused to get the COVID-19 vaccine and is barred from suiting up in New York due to the city's mandate.

But Durant dominated over 30 minutes and finished with nine assists. Harden hit five 3-pointers. Patty Mills scored 21 and nailed 6 of 8 from beyond the arc, helping Brooklyn come out on top after losing five of seven.

The Nets also avoided a three-game sweep by the Bulls.

Zach LaVine scored 20. DeMar DeRozan added 19 points. But Chicago lost for the second time in three games after winning nine straight to match their best run since the



Brooklyn Nets' James Harden, right, drives on Chicago Bulls' Ayo Dosunmu during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022, in Chicago.

end of the 2010-11 regular season. The Bulls also had their nine-game home win streak snapped.

The Nets outscored the Bulls 39-19 in the third to turn a two-point halftime lead into a 101-79 advantage.

Durant had 10 in about a two-minute span, including a 3 to make it 99-79 before Irving drove for a layup in the closing minute.

By then, the Nets were well on their way. They took control midway through the third with an 18-4 run to break open a game that was tied at 71, a 3-pointer by Mills making it 89-75.

Kings 125, Lakers 116

In Sacramento, Calif., De'Aaron Fox scored 20 points, Chimezie Metu made a clutch 3-pointer with 46.7

seconds remaining and Sacramento beat Los Angeles to end a five-game skid.

Harrison Barnes added 23 points and seven rebounds for the Kings.

LeBron James had 34 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Lakers. He was 13 of 29 from the field, 3 of 12 from 3-point range, and made 5 of 10 free throws.

Knicks 108, Mavericks 85

In New York, RJ Barrett scored 32 points, Mitchell Robinson had a season-high 19 and New York snapped Dallas' winning streak at six games.

Robinson threw down three dunks in a powerful third quarter for the Knicks, who won for the fourth time in five games and returned to .500 at 21-21. He shot 9 for 10 from

the field and had 10 rebounds.

Julius Randle finished with 17 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists. Booed in the last game after holding his thumb down to the crowd last week.

Luka Doncic had 21 points and 11 rebounds for the Mavericks. Dallas remained without coach Jason Kidd and former Knicks All-Star Kristaps Porzingis because of health and safety protocols.

Hornets 109, 76ers 98

In Philadelphia, Gordon Hayward made his first nine shots and scored 30 points and Charlotte beat Philadelphia to snap a 16-game losing streak in the series.

Hayward was 9 of 9 in first half—that included four 3-pointers—for 22 points. Terry Rozier added 22 points, and Miles Bridges had 21.

The Hornets hadn't beaten the 76ers since Nov. 2, 2016.

Joel Embiid scored 31 points for the fifth straight game for Philadelphia. The 76ers had won seven in a row.

Cavaliers 111, Jazz 91

In Salt Lake City, Lamar Stevens scored 15 of career-high 23 points in the third quarter in Cleveland's victory over short-handed Utah.

Darius Garland had his first triple-double with 11 points, a career-high 15 assists and a career-high 10 rebounds. Lauri Markkanen added 20 points, Kevin Love had 16, and Eric Mobley finished with 15 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists. Cleveland improved to 3-1 on its six-game trip.

Jordan Clarkson scored 22 points for the Jazz in their fourth straight loss. Centers Rudy

Gobert, Hassan Whiteside and Udoka Azubuike and forward Rudy Gay are in COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

Celtics 119, Pacers 100

In Indianapolis, Jaylen Brown scored 34 points, Jayson Tatum added 33 and Boston beat Indiana.

Boston snapped a six-game road losing streak, beating Indiana for the second time in three days and the fourth straight time. Myles Turner had 18 points for Indiana. The Pacers have lost two in a row and eight of nine.

Wizards 112, Magic 106

In Washington, Kyle Kuzma had 19 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists to help Washington beat Orlando.

Washington has won three in a row, and the Wizards won for a second consecutive night without star guard Bradley Beal, who was out because of health and safety protocols.

Cole Anthony had 19 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists for the NBA-worst Magic. They have lost 10 in a row.

Heat 115, Hawks 91

In Atlanta, Tyler Herro had 21 points and Miami scored the first 16 points of the second half to break open a close game against Atlanta.

Herro added 11 assists. Caleb Martin had 18 points to help the Heat finish 4-2 on a trip.

John Collins led Atlanta with 16 points. Trae Young had 15.

Rockets 128, Spurs 124

In San Antonio, Eric Gordon had 31 points and Houston beat San Antonio to snap a three-game skid.

Christian Wood scored 23 points, Kevin Porter Jr. added 18 and Jalen Green 14 for Houston.

Dejounte Murray had a career-high 32 points for the Spurs. San Antonio has lost four straight and seven of eight.

Washington's Beal enters health and safety protocols

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bradley Beal is out for Washington's game Tuesday night against Oklahoma City after entering health and safety protocols for the second time in less than three weeks.

Beal entered the protocols Dec. 23 and returned after a week. He said then that he didn't have COVID-19 and the absence was due to contact tracing.

Beal, who missed a chance to play in the Olympics last year after testing positive, was unvaccinated when the season began. When he returned late last month, he said he'd always kept an open mind about receiving the vaccine and decided to do so for family reasons.

Coach Wes Unseld Jr. said Tuesday he thought a test from Monday was flagged, but he didn't want to say with certainty. He said Beal would need two consecutive negative tests to exit protocol.

The Wizards play again Wednesday night, at home against Orlando.

Source: Cavs give GM Altman contract extension, new title

CLEVELAND (AP)—Cavaliers general manager Koby Altman has been rewarded for the team's turnaround with a contract extension and new job title, a person familiar with Cleveland's plans told the Associated Press on Tuesday night.

Altman, who has reshaped the Cavs' roster and moved them back into playoff contention, has agreed to the extension through the 2027-28 season, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the team has not made the deal official.



In this April 12, 2019, file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers general manager Koby Altman speaks to the media at the NBA basketball team's training facility in Independence, Ohio.

Altman will also assume the new title of president of basketball operations, the person said. The team is expected to announce the deal Wednesday.

ESPN first reported Altman's extension.

At 23-18, the Cavs have already surpassed their win total from last season. Cleveland has won 19, 19 and 22 games the past three seasons — a run that began after LeBron James left for the Lakers.

But with a core of young players assembled by Altman, the Cavs are relevant again and appear built for sustained success.

Altman made astute selec-

tions in guard Darius Garland and forward Evan Mobley, lottery draft picks in 2019 and 2021 respectively, and his trade last season for center Jarrett Allen has accelerated Cleveland's rebuild.

The 39-year-old Altman has been with the Cavs since 2012, first working in personnel before becoming the assistant GM to David Griffin. Altman was promoted to GM in 2017, taking over when Griffin left after the Cavs won the NBA title.

Last month, the Cavs extended coach J.B. Bickerstaff through the 2026-27 season.

Djokovic admits travel declaration had incorrect information



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Novak Djokovic has acknowledged

that his Australian travel declaration form contained incorrect information, as the government nears a decision on whether to deport the Serbian tennis star, who is not vaccinated against COVID-19, on public interest grounds.

The men's tennis No. 1 had his visa canceled on arrival in Melbourne last week when his vaccination exemption was questioned, but he won a legal battle on procedural grounds that allowed him to stay in the country. He still faces the prospect of deportation — a decision that is entirely at the discretion of Australia's Immigration Minister Alex Hawke if deemed to be in the public interest for health and safety reasons.

Hawke has been considering the question since a judge reinstated Djokovic's visa on Monday.

Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce said most Australians disapproved of the nine-time and defending Australian Open champion coming to Melbourne to compete in breach of the nation's tough pandemic quarantine rules.

"Most of us thought because Mr. Djokovic hadn't been vaxxed twice that he would be asked to leave," Joyce told Nine Network television on Thursday. "Well, that was our view, but it wasn't the court's view."

"The vast majority of Australians ... didn't like the idea that another individual, whether they're a tennis player or ... the king of Spain or the Queen of England, can come up here and have a different set of rules to what everybody else has to deal with," Joyce added.

The draw to determine men's and women's singles brackets at the tournament was scheduled to be held at 3 p.m. local time (0400 GMT) in Melbourne, but a tournament official told waiting media that the ceremony had been postponed until further notice and declined further comment.

There was speculation that the delay reflected uncertainty over whether Djokovic will be able to compete.

The debate over Djokovic's



Defending men's champion Serbia's Novak Djokovic practices on Margaret Court Arena ahead of the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022.

presence in Australia rages against a backdrop of surging COVID-19 infections across the nation.

Victoria state, which hosts the Australian Open, on Thursday eased seven-day isolation rules for close contacts of those infected in sectors including education and transport to curb the number of employees staying away from work.

The state recorded 37,169 new COVID-19 cases in the latest 24-hour period on Thursday, as well as 25 deaths and 953 hospitalizations.

Ticket sales to the tennis tournament have been limited to reduce the risk of transmission.

In a statement posted to his social media accounts on Wednesday, the tennis star blamed "human error" by his support team for failing to declare that he had traveled in the two-week period before entering Australia.

Giving false information on the form could be grounds for deportation, the latest twist in a saga over whether the athlete should be allowed stay in Australia despite not being

vaccinated. The initial news that Djokovic was granted an exemption to strict vaccination rules to enter the country provoked an outcry and the ensuing dispute has since overshadowed the lead-up to the Australian Open.

Djokovic acknowledged the lapses when he sought to clarify what he called "continuing misinformation" about his movements after he became infected last month — though he did not spell out what inaccuracies he was referring to.

The statement was posted while Djokovic was in Rod Laver Arena holding a practice session, his third on the tournament's main court since being released from four nights in immigration detention.

Djokovic remains in limbo before the year's first tennis major starts Monday. The stakes are particularly high since he is seeking a men's record 21st Grand Slam singles title.

Deportation could result in sanctions ranging up to a three-year ban from entering Australia, a daunting prospect for a player who has won almost half of his 20 Grand

Slam singles titles here.

Court documents detailing Djokovic's positive test sparked speculation over the star player's attendance at events in his native Serbia last month. Further questions also were raised about errors on his immigration form that could potentially result in the cancellation of his visa yet again.

On the form, Djokovic said he had not traveled in the 14 days before his flight to Australia, despite being seen in Spain and Serbia in that period.

In his statement, Djokovic described recent commentary as "hurtful" and said he wanted to address it in the interest of "alleviating broader concern in the community about my presence in Australia."

The 34-year-old Serb said he'd taken rapid tests that were negative and he was asymptomatic before he received his positive result from a PCR test he undertook out of an "abundance of caution" after attending a basketball game in Belgrade on Dec. 14.

He received the result late Dec. 17, he said, and scrapped all his commitments except a

long-standing interview with L'Equipe newspaper the following day.

"I felt obliged to go ahead ... but did ensure I socially distanced and wore a mask except when my photograph was being taken," Djokovic said.

The L'Equipe reporter who interviewed the athlete wrote in the newspaper that he and a photographer were also masked during the session — and kept their distance except for a brief moment as Djokovic said goodbye. The reporter said he tested negative for COVID-19 on Monday, and did not mention the photographer's status.

"While I went home after the interview to isolate for the required period, on reflection, this was an error of judgment," Djokovic said.

At the time, Serbia required those who were infected with COVID-19 to isolate for at least 14 days. But Djokovic was seen a little over a week after his positive test on the streets of Belgrade, though he said he had tested negative in between.

Meanwhile, Djokovic addressed the Australian travel

declaration by saying it was submitted by his support team and "my agent sincerely apologizes for the administrative mistake in ticking the incorrect box."

"This was a human error and certainly not deliberate," he wrote. "My team has provided additional information to the Australian Government to clarify this matter."

The decision could take a while — but there is time pressure since the draw to determine brackets for the Australian Open is set to take place Thursday.

Hawke's office issued a statement on Wednesday saying Djokovic's legal team had filed further documents and added: "Naturally, this will affect the timeframe for a decision."

At issue is whether he has a valid exemption to strict rules requiring vaccination to enter Australia since he recently recovered from COVID-19.

His exemption to compete was approved by the Victoria state government and Tennis Australia, the tournament organizer. That apparently allowed him to receive a visa to travel.

But the Australian Border Force rejected the exemption and canceled his visa upon arrival before a federal judge overturned that decision. Lawyers for the government have said an infection was only grounds for an exemption in cases in which the coronavirus caused severe illness — though it's not clear why he was issued a visa if that's the case.

The initial decision to let him compete sparked complaints that Djokovic was being given special treatment — and the subsequent cancellation of his visa raised allegations that he was being targeted once the issue became political. The saga is playing out against the backdrop of growing concern in Australia over surging COVID-19 cases — and the government's strategy to contain them.

If Djokovic's visa is canceled, his lawyers could go back to court to apply for an injunction that would prevent him from being forced to leave the country.

Sydney-based immigration lawyer Simon Jeans said if Djokovic's visa were canceled, he would likely be held in immigration detention. Djokovic could apply for a bridging visa to compete in the tournament pending the appeal. The immigration department would have two business days to decide that application. If Djokovic were refused such a visa, an appeal would typically take weeks, Jeans said.

Australian Open draw delayed amid uncertainty over Djokovic

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—The Australian Open draw was delayed at least 75 minutes Thursday amid uncertainty over top-ranked Novak Djokovic's visa status.

The draw, to determine the men's and women's singles brackets at the year's first ten-

nis major, was scheduled to be held at 3 p.m. local time in Melbourne, but a tournament official told waiting media that the ceremony had been postponed until further notice and declined further comment.

It was later rescheduled to 4:15 p.m. local time.

The Australian Open begins Monday. Djokovic traveled to Australia seeking to win a 21st Grand Slam title to break the men's record of 20 he shared with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

The Australian immigration minister was still con-

sidering whether to deport the nine-time and defending Australian Open champion, who is not vaccinated against COVID-19, on public interest grounds.

Djokovic remained in limbo.

The 34-year-old Serb had his visa canceled on arrival in

Melbourne last week when his vaccination exemption was questioned, but he won a legal battle on procedural grounds that allowed him to stay in the country.

Immigration Minister Alex Hawke can overrule the judge's decision to reinstate the visa.

Woo, Elliot seeded first in SIS tennis tourney

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jimin Woo and Hyejin Elliot have been installed the top seeds in the men's and women's open, respectively, of the 2022 SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament that is set to unfurl tomorrow at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Expected to crowd Woo at the top of the men's open are No. 2 seed Morris Villanueva and No. 3 seed Sam Ryu.

In the women's open, expected to give Elliot a tough challenge is Serin Chung.

David Kwon is the No. 1 seed in the boys 16&U with Cody Shimizu expected to

provide the best resistance.

In the girls 16&U, Seiyul Hong has been seeded No. 1 with Seohee Lee seeded No. 2.

Henry Choi has the pole position in the boys 14&U with Siwoo Lee getting the second seed.

Irin Chung is the prohibitive favorite in the girls 14&U with Hannah Chae running second.

In the boys 12&U, Ryan Choi takes the top seed with Eamon Tang second.

Serin Chung and Derek Culp have been named the top seeds in the 5.0 mixed doubles. The team of Jessie Kim and David Kwon is seeded No. 2.

The 4.0 mixed doubles has Irin Chung and June Yu serving as the top seeds with Wataru Kadokura and Hoo Wang the No. 2 seed.



Elliot



Woo

Yutaka Kadokura and Anne Lee is the team to beat in the 3.0 mixed doubles with Siwoo Lee and Isa Nishitani the No. 2 seed.

The tournament is being held to serve as a fundraiser for Saipan International School's Student Council.

For more information about the 2022 SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament, call coordinators Serin Chung at (670) 788-7400 or email her at serin.c.2006@gmail.com. You can also call Woo at (670) 285-7300/ 783-7500 (whatsapp) or email him at jimin06132004@gmail.com.

The 2022 SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament is sanctioned by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association.

Bike ride fundraiser this Sunday



MARK RABAGO

The Typhoon Odette's (Rai) Victims Donation Fun Ride will be held this Sunday from Banzai Cliff.

A fun ride to raise funds for those devastated by Typhoon Odette (Rai) in the Philippines will be held this Sunday from Banzai Cliff in Marpi.

Organizer Wilfredo Barbo said the event, dubbed simply as Typhoon Odette's (Rai) Victims Donation Fun Ride, is non-competitive and is open to all mountain bike and road bike cyclists, even beginners.

The event starts at 6:30am and will encompass the Banzai Cliff, La Fiesta, and back to Banzai Cliff route. Riders who want to do a longer ride can also choose their route, according to Barbo.

Registration for the Typhoon Odette's (Rai) Victims Donation Fun Ride closes a day before the event on Jan. 15. Barbo said any monetary donation amount is welcome and can be made on the day of the ride itself.

To register, copy and paste the link: https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=263683&fbclid=IwAR0_f8BLFnLRtbAQ-DDoKkX8Pd3PxHtp4MP-6cmU6iafxeuZ3GM-r9pT6NSFo. (Mark Rabago)

Tritons make a comeback with 60-55 win over Team Pudding



The University of Guam Triton Men's Basketball Team defeated Team Pudding 60-55 in a close battle in the "Take It 2 the South" tournament on Wednesday night at the Talofofo Gym. Head coach Dana Holmes and assistant coach Mike Cottrell joined the team again on the court to help the short-handed team of five players.

Team Pudding was the first to score, but the Tritons managed to score 11 points

after five minutes and never trailed again.

During the first half, Diane "D" Blackmon went full speed—scoring 10 points in the first few minutes of the game. Brandon Duenas and Holmes helped the Tritons keep their lead by scoring eight points each in the final minutes before the buzzer.

UOG led 37-25 at halftime, but Team Pudding was determined to catch up in the second half. Pudding closed the gap to two points in the final

minute of the game, but the Tritons—held them off—winning the game by five points.

Leading the Tritons in scoring were Blackmon with 21 points, Brandon Duenas with 19, and Holmes with 15.

The Tritons are now 1-1 for the tournament, while Team Pudding was eliminated with a 0-2 record.

UOG will play in another elimination game against Team FOE at 7pm on Tuesday. Fans can tune in on the Triton Athletics YouTube channel the following day to watch a recording of the game. (PR)



TRITON ATHLETICS

Brandon Duenas shoots a free throw for the Tritons at the "Take It 2 the South" tournament last Jan. 12 at the Talofofo Gym.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	26	14	.650	—
Philadelphia	23	17	.575	3
Toronto	20	18	.526	5
Boston	21	21	.500	6
New York	21	21	.500	6

Southeast Division

Miami	26	15	.634	—
Charlotte	23	19	.548	3½
Washington	22	20	.524	4½
Atlanta	17	23	.425	8½
Orlando	7	35	.167	19½

Central Division

Chicago	27	12	.692	—
Milwaukee	26	17	.605	3
Cleveland	24	18	.571	4½
Indiana	15	27	.357	13½
Detroit	9	31	.225	18½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	29	14	.674	—
Dallas	22	19	.537	6
San Antonio	15	26	.366	13
New Orleans	15	26	.366	13
Houston	12	31	.279	17

Northwest Division

Utah	28	14	.667	—
Denver	20	19	.513	6½
Minnesota	20	21	.488	7½
Portland	16	24	.400	11
Oklahoma City	13	27	.325	14

Pacific Division

Phoenix	31	9	.775	—
Golden State	30	10	.750	1
L.A. Clippers	21	21	.500	11
L.A. Lakers	21	21	.500	11
Sacramento	17	27	.386	16

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SSC

From Page 24

over 7K and took a break for a while but went back and finished the rest of the 100 later in the day," said Sikkel.

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center was supposed to join but canceled due to swimmers having colds and injuries, according to the SSC head coach.

Sikkel congratulated all the winners and all the participants who took part in the event. He also extended his gratitude to Dolphin Swim Club for providing lifeguards for the "Hundreds Hundreds."

BASEBALL

From Page 24

guys as backups. Then we were happy to learn from the council that indeed we can select 25. So we got 36 players trying out now and I believe the coaches will make the final cut to 25 by the end of the month."

Santos also has this advice to the remaining 36 players vying for the 25 remaining roster spots for the CNMI National Baseball Team: "I'm asking them to please trust the process because we've had some challenges with internal misunderstanding from

the players with the initial cut. This has never been done before and we ask the players to trust the process."

He added that team manager Sablan and coaches Flores and Cruz know what they're doing and has the full backing of the SBL.

"We brought in the best manager and best coaching staff to put this team together that's going to be very competitive in the Games... the more trust they put in the process the more we believe we will be having a winning combination when the Games come around," said Santos.

NMI

From Page 24

17 to 25 with the badminton competition taking place from June 20 to 25 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Badminton will have six events—team, men's and women's singles and doubles, and mixed doubles. Guam, Cook Islands, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Wallis & Futuna, as of December last year, are the other countries that have confirmed participation in the badminton competition.

Guerrero said the team is

excited for the opportunity to challenge players in the region and with a little over four months left before the tournament unfolds, they will have to push themselves harder to be battle ready.

The NMI National Badminton Team started training as a group last Monday and will be focusing on strength and conditioning training for the first two months of the year. Players are having training sessions three times a week and they are also scheduled to compete in Guam next month to gauge their readiness for the Mini Games. (PR)

**Durant, Harden
lead Nets to
138-112 romp
over Bulls**

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Saipan Tribune Sports



**Woo, Elliot
seeded first
in SIS tennis
tournament**

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24 FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMI National Badminton Team named



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the NMI National Badminton Team pose for a photo before starting their training session last Wednesday at the TSL Sports Complex.

The Northern Marianas Badminton Association has selected 14 individuals to play for the NMI National Badminton Team that will compete in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 this June.

The men's squad will be headed by team captain Nathan Guerrero, who represented the islands in the Samoa Pacific Games in 2019. Joining Guerrero on the team are her fellow Pacific Games veterans Andreau Galvez, Jordan Pangilinan,

and siblings Ezekiel and Daniel Macario. Completing the men's crew are Leonard Isaiah Manuel and youth player Paulo Jerome Quidato. All seven have been training for the past several months and have actively participated in the NMBA-organized events last year, including the inaugural NMI National Badminton Championships.

In the women's side, Janelle Pangilinan will suit up for the national team anew after debuting in the Pacific Games three years ago. She will have Jenine Savellano, Jeanelyn Cardinio, Patricia Nicole Surima, Windy Ann Fernandez, and sisters



Michaela and Mikamaika Serano as teammates.

"We would like to congratulate the 14 players for making it to the NMI National Badminton Team. We look forward to their continued commitment to the national squad as they prepare for the Mini Games and do their best to represent the NMI well. We are excited to see our players compete in front of the home crowd," NMBA president Merlie Tolentino said.

The Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 will run from June

See NMI on Page 23



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The top swimmers of Saipan Swim Club's "Hundreds Hundreds" long-distance competition pose with their painted coconut trophies after the race last Saturday in the waters off Civic Center Beach in Susupe.

SSC swimmers crush 'Hundreds Hundreds' event

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan Swim Club members conquered the challenge of the "Hundreds Hundreds" long-distance competition last Saturday from the waters off Civic Center Beach in Susupe.

Taiyo Akimaru completed the boys 100x100s first, Jakey DeLeon Guerrero finished second, Moshe Sikkell third, and Michael Miller was fourth.

Janie Thompson completed the girls 100x100s first with Savita Sikkell coming in second.

In the boys 50x100s, Jack Raho finished first, followed by his brother Tristan. Third place went to Zeno Iwami. Manuel Magboo and Sean Park came in fourth and fifth, respectively.

Piper Raho and Nagi Takahashi finished 1-2 in the girls 50x100s. SSC head coach Richard Sikkell said they didn't keep times for the

"Hundreds Hundreds" event.

The Top 3 swimmers in each category received painted coconut trophies for all their troubles.

"The 100m is a common distance in the pool and during practice. Since they swam 100x100 we call it 'Hundreds Hundreds,'" he said.

Sikkell said this isn't the first time they held the "Hundreds Hundreds" competition.

"We have done this in the past as a club around New Year to ring in the year with a nice long-distance swim. Some of the SSC swimmers completed the 100x100s this weekend. The junior and senior group swam 100x100s and the younger swimmers swam 50x100s."

Aside from SSC swimmers, the event also attracted Dolphin Swim Club's Andrew Ahn, a pastor at a local Korean church.

"He swam with the kids for a bit

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Baseball allowed to have 5 alternates

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Baseball League received some great news recently after

the Pacific Games Council informed them that baseball teams can carry as much as 25 players for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

The 25-man maximum roster in-



clude 20 in the active list and five serving as alternates.

SBL Jay Santos is overjoyed with the clarification from the Pacific Games Council.

"We did confirm from the [Pacific Games Council] that we will be able to select 25 players for the Mini Games. Five players will be alternates just in case an injury occurs. They will be a part of the team all throughout the Mini Games. They won't just be able to participate in a number of events," he said.

What that means for CNMI national baseball team manager Manny Sablan and national coaches Deron Flores and Gary Cruz is five less players they need to cut when they trim the pool to the updated 25-man roster at January's end.

"We're excited about these turn of events. We were actually going on with 25 to begin with just to have five

See BASEBALL on Page 23



MARK RABAGO

CNMI National Baseball Team coach Deron Flores gives candidates of the national baseball training pool a pep talk during their first practice last November at the Oleai track and field amphitheater.